60¢

# The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

SEPTEMBER 4th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 36

# HIGH TIDE TABLES

| DAY | SANDY HOOK AM | SANDY HOOK PM | Breakwater Harbor AM | Breakwater Harbor PM | NEW YORK AM | NEW YORK PM | NEW LONDON AM | NEW LONDON PM | WILLETS POINT AM | WILLETS POINT PM | BRIDGE-PORT AM | BRIDGE-PORT PM | NEW-PORT AM | NEW-PORT PM | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THUR. | 4:35 | 5:00 | 5:30 | 6:00 | 5:15 | 5:40 | 6:25 | 6:45 | 8:50 | 9:15 | 8:10 | 8:30 | 4:25 | 4:55 | 9/4 |
| FRI. | 5:35 | 6:00 | 6:30 | 6:55 | 6:15 | 6:40 | 7:25 | 7:40 | 9:45 | 10:10 | 9:05 | 9:30 | 5:20 | 5:45 | 9/5 |
| SAT. | 6:30 | 6:45 | 7:25 | 7:45 | 7:10 | 7:30 | 8:10 | 8:30 | 10:40 | 11:00 | 10:00 | 10:15 | 6:10 | 6:35 | 9/6 |
| SUN. | 7:15 | 7:30 | 8:10 | 8:25 | 7:55 | 8:10 | 8:55 | 9:10 | 11:25 | 11:45 | 10:45 | 11:00 | 7:00 | 7:20 | 9/7 |
| MON. | 7:55 | 8:10 | 8:50 | 9:05 | 8:40 | 8:50 | 9:30 | 9:50 | – | 12:05 | 11:25 | 11:40 | 7:40 | 8:00 | 9/8 |
| TUE. | 8:35 | 8:45 | 9:25 | 9:45 | 9:20 | 9:30 | 10:05 | 10:25 | 12:20 | 12:40 | – | 12:05 | 8:25 | 8:40 | 9/9 |
| WED. | 9:10 | 9:20 | 10:00 | 10:15 | 9:55 | 10:05 | 10:45 | 11:00 | 1:00 | 1:10 | 12:20 | 12:35 | 9:00 | 9:20 | 9/10 |
| THUR. | 9:50 | 9:55 | 10:35 | 10:50 | 10:30 | 10:45 | 11:20 | 11:35 | 1:25 | 1:25 | 12:55 | 1:10 | 9:40 | 10:00 | 9/11 |

## HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

## On SANDY HOOK

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | + 0 27 |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | —0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink R.I. | + 0 48 |
| Long Branch | —0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | —0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | + 0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | —0 12 |
| Seaside Park | —0 33 |
| Mantoloking Bridge | + 5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | + 4 37 |
| Waretown | + 2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | —0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | + 2 33 |
| Beach Haven | + 1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | —0 01 |
| Seven Islands | + 0 12 |
| Graveling Point | + 1 05 |
| Mullica River | + 1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | + 1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | + 0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | —0 26 |
| Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet | + 0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | + 0 46 |
| CORSON INLET | + 0 09 |
| TOWNESEND INLET | + 0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | + 0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | + 0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | —0 02 |
| Rehoboth Beach | —0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | + 0 14 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | —0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | + 1 25 |
| East Quogue | + 2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | + 3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | —0 56 |
| Smith's Point | + 3 28 |
| Harts Cove | + 1 30 |
| Potunck Point | + 3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | + 3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | —0 38 |
| Democrat Point | —0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | —0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | + 0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville | + 3 39 |
| Heckscher State Pk. | + 3 20 |
| Bay Shore | + 2 23 |
| Babylon | + 2 12 |
| Amityville | + 2 21 |
| JONES INLET | —0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | + 1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | + 2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | + 0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | —0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | + 0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | —0 00 |
| Beach Ch. Bridge | + 0 38 |
| JFK Airport | + 0 26 |

## On BRIDGEPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | + 0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | + 0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | + 0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | + 0 03 |
| Northport Bay | + 0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | + 0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | —0 03 |
| Cranes Neck Point | + 0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Harbor | + 0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | + 0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | —0 08 |
| Herod Point | —0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | + 0 19 |
| Horton Point | —0 20 |
| Truman Beach | —0 42 |
| Falkner Island | —0 13 |
| Sachem Head | —0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | —0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor | —0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | —0 07 |
| Stratford | + 0 27 |
| Shelton | + 1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor | —0 03 |
| Saugatuck River | —0 01 |
| South Norwalk | + 0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | —0 01 |
| Stamford | + 0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | + 0 06 |
| Greenwich | + 0 02 |

## On NEW LONDON

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient Point | + 0 27 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | + 0 12 |
| Greenport | + 1 04 |
| Southold | + 1 43 |
| New Suffolk | + 2 26 |
| South Jamesport | + 2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | + 2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | + 0 59 |
| Gardiners Bay | + 0 21 |
| Promised Land | —0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | —0 25 |
| Montauk Point | —1 13 |
| Niantic | + 1 20 |
| Stonington | —0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River | —0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove | —0 01 |
| Norwich | + 0 09 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook jetty | + 1 10 |
| Lyme | + 1 24 |
| Essex | + 1 38 |
| East Haddam | + 2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | + 2 54 |

## On WILLETS PT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | —0 10 |
| Execution Light | —0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | —0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | —0 11 |
| City Island | —0 03 |
| Rye Beach | —0 28 |
| Port Chester | —0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | —0 08 |
| New Rochelle | —0 24 |
| Davids Island | —0 02 |

## On B'WATER HB.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | —0 10 |
| Miami Beach | + 1 17 |
| East Point | + 0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | + 0 33 |
| Cape Henlopen | —0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | + 0 09 |
| Mispillion River Ent. | + 0 33 |
| St. Jones River Ent. | + 0 57 |

## On NEW YORK

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | + 0 07 |
| Geo. Washington Br. | + 0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil | + 0 58 |
| Ossining | + 1 53 |
| Peekskill | + 2 24 |
| West Point | + 3 16 |
| Newburg | + 3 42 |

## On NEWPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | —0 10 |
| Tiverton | + 0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | —0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Pt. | + 0 10 |
| Bristol | + 0 10 |
| Warren | + 0 21 |
| Nayatt Point | + 0 12 |
| Pawtucket | + 0 21 |
| East Greenwich | + 0 16 |
| Wickford | + 0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | —0 08 |
| Point Judith Harbor | —0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | + 0 05 |
| Old Harbor | —0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | + 0 44 |

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9/5 | 6:30 | 7:27 |
| 9/6 | 6:31 | 7:25 |
| 9/7 | 6:31 | 7:24 |
| 9/8 | 6:32 | 7:22 |
| 9/9 | 6:34 | 7:20 |
| 9/10 | 6:35 | 7:18 |
| 9/11 | 6:36 | 7:17 |

## PHASES OF THE MOON

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | 2nd Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/9 | 9/17 | 9/24 | 9/1 |

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

| | AM Minor | AM Major | PM Minor | PM Major |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thurs. | 1:15 | **7:55** | 1:45 | **8:20** |
| Fri. | 2:05 | **8:40** | 2:35 | **9:05** |
| Sat. | 2:50 | **9:25** | 3:20 | **9:50** |
| Sun. | 3:35 | **10:10** | 4:05 | **10:35** |
| Mon. | 4:20 | **10:55** | 4:50 | **11:15** |
| Tues. | 5:05 | **11:35** | 5:30 | **11:55** |
| Wed. | 5:45 | — | 6:10 | **12:20** |
| Thurs. | 6:30 | **12:40** | 6:55 | **1:05** |

# The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 15, Number 36 — September 4th, 1980


## Features:


NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori ..... 5

Fish Talk:
UGLY STIK WINNER ..... William A. Muller .... 6

SEPTEMBER NEWS ..... Fred Guardineer ..... 7

Surf Fishing:
FALL SURF DOWN-EAST ..... Carl Fritzsche ..... 8

Old-Timers' Corner:
MORE THIS & THAT ..... Matt Ahern ..... 10

HOW ABOUT PORGIES? ..... Capt. John DeMaio ... 12

WEAKFISH MADNESS ..... Richard Giessuebel ... 14

MINING MONTAUK'S GOLD & SILVER ... Ron Onorato ..... 16

PANFISHING IN BROOKLYN ..... Sal Terranova ..... 18


## Departments


Tide & Solunar Tables ..... 2
Boating ..... 4
Fishing Reports ..... 21
Classified Ads ..... 42
Free Lure Offer ..... 44


## About the Cover—

Diamond jiggers will soon be crowding Montauk's Rips as bass, blues, and weaks begin fattening up for their annual migration south. Cover photo by Dr. William A. Muller.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **BONITO & ALBACORE**


Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro — EDITOR
Rich Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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DETAILS

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# BOATING

## BOATING COURSES

Boating accidents on the rise on Long Island...ten lives lost this year. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is concerned. How do they combat this trend? They give Safe Boating Courses, Free, to educate the boating public.

Two separate courses: one a 14-lesson course in boating skills and seamanship. Starting **September 8, 1980**, at 8PM. Learn Rules of the Road, charting weather, motorboat handling and safety requirements.

Seven-lesson Sailing Course starting **September 9, 1980** at 8PM. Learn from one of the greatest sailing masters. Learn sailboat handling, charting, rules of the road and much more.

Registration and Instruction start Monday, Sept. 8 and Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the Stony Brook Yacht Club, Stony Brook, N.Y.

Nominal cost for class materials. Certificates given upon completion of course. For more information, call: Public Education Officer, Mr. Silverman, 265-3694.

***

Skippers and would-be skippers are invited to register for a FREE course in small boat handling on Tuesday, September 9 at 7PM, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., half a block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Men and women over the age of 16 are eligible to attend the 12-week evening course, conducted by the Brooklyn Power Squadron. Classes will be held on Thursdays at 7PM, starting on September 18. Ownership of a boat is not required.

The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of inboard and outboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting course, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat. The overall theme is: "Boating is fun; safe boating is more fun."

The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. The basic rules of the road for safe operation are also taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes without charge to teach those interested in boating the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

***

Commander Raymond P. Goetz of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Poer Squadrons, has announced the Fall Boating Course schedule. Registration for the free course is at 8PM, Tuesday, **September 16**, at Old Field Junior High School, Greenlawn Road, Greenlawn; and at 8PM, Wednesday, **September 17**, at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Road, Huntington Station. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. There will be a nominal fee of $9 for course material. Late registration will also be accepted before classes the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. The Neptune Squadron has offered these 10-week courses to boating enthusiasts for over 40 years. Additional information can be obtained by calling 427-4622 or 421-0774.

During the approximately two-hour class sessions, students will receive instruction in all the major categories of safe boat handling including: course plotting, aids to navigation, chart reading, piloting, safety afloat, government regulations, rules of the road, and many more. The last session of the course is reserved for a final examination, and those who pass it receive a certificate of completion.

The students will have homework which should take from thirty minutes to an hour and the arithmetic needed for piloting navigation calculations are no more complicated than making change or totaling a shopping list.

Students between 12-15 years of age may also register for a special "Young Boaters" course to be held at each school on the same nights as the Basic Boating Course.

***

The Bronx Power Squadron invites all boatmen to attend the Public Boating Course that will be given at N.Y. State Maritime College, Pennyfield Ave., Ft. Schuyler, Bronx, starting **September 16** at 7:30 p.m. Additional information can be obtained by calling: Days—567-1014; Eves.—863-5772.

A sampling of subjects covered are: safety of operation of boats and procedures in emergencies. The courses are taught by seasoned boatmen.

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**ATTENTION!!!**

**Would ALAN HARRIS, who recently sent The Fisherman a renewal check, please contact Linda in the Subscription Dept., by calling 516-725-4200, Ext. 16. Thank you.**

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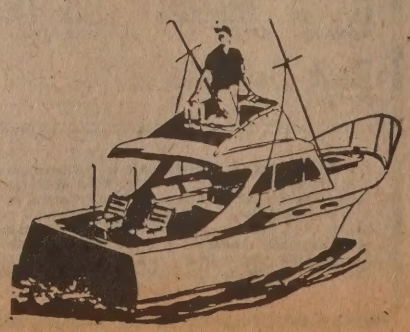


As previously reported in this column, the Chafee Amendment to the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act signed into law late last fall provided funds for an emergency three-year striped bass research study to determine the causes for declines in the population. Efforts in this direction are now well under way, with committees formed and grants made for particular studies.

Three committees will be operating under the new legislation. The Plan Development Team is composed of scientists, and they've already come up with a priority list of research activities to carry out the intent of the Chafee

# NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

## CHAFEE AMENDMENT SPURS ACTION

Amendment. The Striped Bass Planning and Coordination Committee will: (1) review, oversee development of, and recommend approval of the plan of action; (2) review, evaluate, and recommend to the administering agencies approval or disapproval of study proposals; (3) monitor ongoing projects to assure coordination of work and conformance with the approved plan of action; and (4) make other recommendations and provide advice, as needed, to the administering agencies, and other participants, concerning implementation of the emergency striped bass study. The chairman of this Committee is Galen Buterbaugh, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington. Also serving are Howard Larsen of USFWS, William Gordon and Allan Peterson of NMFS; David Flemer of the Environmental Protection Agency; Pat Carroll, chairman of the Striped Bass Citizens' Advisory Committee; Russ Cookingham, New Jersey fisheries chief and a member of the Striped Bass Sub-Board; Bob Rubelmann, Maryland Fisheries Administrator and a member of the Striped Bass Sub-Board; and John Gottschalk, executive director of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA).

The third committee is still being formed and will be called the Citizens' Advisory Panel. There will be one citizen/member from each coastal state between Maine and North Carolina, plus five citizen/members at large, and one Federal official from each of the administering agencies. This committee will give advice to the Planning and Coordination Committee and the administering agencies.

The States were authorized to begin surveys on the spawning grounds in April, so an entire season wouldn't be lost. Five specific projects had been authorized as of July 1. One involved the "Biology and Management of Striped Bass in New York Waters." The first part of that proposal is reasonable enough, but the portion about management could be filled in within minutes. In effect, there has been no striped bass management in New York. There's also a project for the "Monitoring of the Status of the Striped Bass Population in New Jersey," plus studies relating to the assessment of larval striped bass in Maryland and Virginia waters and "Relative Recruitment Estimates for Striped Bass from Three Virginia Rivers."

The Chafee Amendment delegated to the Fish and Wildlife Service the lead role in determining the causes of striped bass decline on the Atlantic Coast. Under a crash effort, two separate but closely related projects were initiated by the Fish and Wildlife Service during the 1980 striped bass spawning season. Under the first project, FWS and State biologists collected adult fish from a number of Atlantic Coast streams in April and May of this year. The Columbia National Fisheries Research Laboratory in Columbia, Missouri will analyze the flesh for the kind and amount of contaminants present. A comparison of contaminants between areas may help elucidate what effects such chemicals have on survival, growth and reproductive success of striped bass on all coasts.

A second study is a joint FWS/NMFS cooperative project to determine the effects of environmental contaminants on the physiology, survival and growth of striped bass egss, larvae and post-larvae. That work is being done at the NMFS Narragansett Lab with cooperation from the Columbia Lab. As of May 19, the Narragansett Lab had received eight shipments of eggs and/or larvae from twenty-six females caught at eight locations from New York to South Carolina. Striped bass larvae are currently being reared at the lab for pollution residue and biochemical analyses.

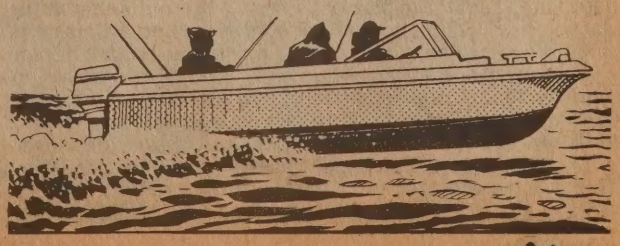
The intent of the Chafee Amendment was to provide a short-term Federal initiative to fund needed research on the striped bass resource to enable and expedite improved management. Congress recognized that this resource is almost entirely coastal in nature and, therefore, within State jurisdiction. This new funding will complement and support ongoing State management and research projects, as well as the State/Federal Striped Bass Fisheries Management Program being carried out by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

All of the foregoing indicates how quickly attitudes can change once a resource becomes threatened. Yet, despite all the studies and millions of dollars involved, there still isn't any definitive answer to the striped bass problem. Even before this current rash of activity, many insiders referred to the striped bass as the "most studied and least understood marine species." Let's hope that the current projects correct that situation—and also awake the fisheries management community to the necessity of dealing with species (such as bluefish and weakfish) while they are still abundant—rather than after the damage has been done!

### Pacific Billfish Catch Declining

A few weeks ago I promised to fill you in on the results of the Pacific International Billfish Angler Survey in the next issue, but other matters intervened. The recently issued 1978 results were based on a much larger sample than in 1977. There were 14,681 angler days recorded, up by 4,014 from 1977. Yet the billfish catch was up only slightly from 4,040 to 4,142. That means the 1978 angler caught only .28 billfish per day. Stated another way, it took him 3.54 days of fishing to catch a single billfish. This is down from .36 per day in 1977 and well below the .55 fish per day average of the 1969-1972 period. Catches of blue and striped marlin are down substantially, with blues having peaked out in the early 1960s and striped marlin in the mid to late-Sixties. Pacific sailfish show a mixed trend—up at Acapulco and down at Mazatlan. The former port hit incredible catch rates of around 1.5 sailfish per angler per day in 1976 and 1977. This dropped off to a still strong .88 in 1978, but a preliminary estimate for 1979 indicates that it will be back up to about one fish per day. Though the huge black marlin in Australia peaked in the early Seventies at a catch rate of about 1.5 per day, they've since leveled off to a very respectable .65 per day.

If you ever fish billfish in the Pacific, your help in this project would be appreciated. Write to James L. Squire, Jr., NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Center, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, California 92038. You'll receive a survey form each year and will be asked to return it even if you didn't fish billfish in the Pacific during that year. In return, you'll receive a copy of the annual survey results.



ANOTHER WINNER! Although we have received many letters on many different topics about fishing and marine ecology, it still isn't too late to enter if you would like to share with us your thoughts on any related subject. It has been very hard to select the winners and although we're sure that some might argue with our selections, we have endeavored to select what we believe to be thought-provoking and interesting letters. How about you folks on the East End/North Fork. We haven't had much mail from you and all of us eagerly await

# FISH TALK
## with William A. Muller

## AN UGLY STIK FOR MIKE GRANDE

hearing about your views and questions regarding the salt chuck.

MIKE GRANDE OF ISLAND PARK writes: "I think I have a good entry for your Shakespeare Ugly Stik contest. Why do fish readily hit popping plugs? I mean, a popping plug doesn't really resemble any baitfish. I know popping plugs are painted to look like fish, but can't the fish see that it has no shape like a real bait? I am twelve-years-old and I know I don't have a chance of winning, but could you answer this question?" Okay Mike, not only have you won but of course we'll attempt to answer the question. I'll take a stab at it, but I'll bet that some of our readers out there can add more insight as to why fish hit a popper and perhaps one of those letters will win that person an Ugly Stik. We were touched by your letter, Mike, not so much because of your belief that you couldn't win, but because you came up with a very thought-provoking question and one that reflects a maturity about fishing well beyond your twelve years. So here goes with a few of my guesses.

TERRITORIALITY! Some game fish, especially large striped bass will settle into an area following the spring migration. Usually, this will be some rocky place where there are lots of crabs, eels, clams, and worms. Thus, even if there are no large schools of baitfish, the bass can pick away at bottom goodies. A large bass may often come to take that rocky place as its territory. In this regard, anything that intrudes on that territory will not be accepted. Perhaps then, a larger bass may see a splashing popper as some small game fish that has wandered into its domain. The fish will probably not react the first time the popper appears across its territory, but may attack it after ten or twenty casts. Often the fish is not interested in eating the intruder and that's why a big fish may miss such a plug by a wide margin: the fish is merely intimidating the intruder. In nature such a scare is enough to drive off an intruder and therefore, if you continue to cast one of two things will usually happen. Either that fish will hit the popper on the very next cast, or will ignore it. That is, if the fish is further irritated by the "intruder" it will hit it for real and you'll usually hook up. However, the fish may feel its attack and show of force were ineffective and thus it may not rise to the plug again.

NOISE! Noise is often a big factor when game fish are feeding on fast moving baits. In the confusion, it may be hard for a predator to pick out its prey: there may be white water, crisscross motion, and lots of splashing. Therefore, if the predator hears a splashing noise that repeats it can zero in on it and strike. Thus, this kind of a reaction is more typical of the spring and fall migration when the feeding is fast and furious. In fact, it is most typical of the fall when fish—predator and prey alike—are on the move.

COLOR! Color can be a big factor on some occasions. This is especially true for bluefish. Blues are wild feeders anyway and when they get worked up they begin to feed with such abandon that they can actually become vulnerable. Thus, I have seen sharks set up and ambush a school of big blues simply because they were so charged up in their feeding that they "lost their smarts." Thus, a bright orange, yellow, or red popper can sometimes really entice a blue when other colors are ignored. I have also seen this work with bass, but not as often.

IMITATES AN ATTACK. Some fishermen believe that a popping plug imitates a small predator feeding and when a larger predator sees this, it may become excited and attack the smaller predator. Therefore, many fishermen like to add a dropper or teaser in front of the popping plugs. They believe that this adds to the illusion and encourages more strikes. Many times, the larger predator will hit the teaser since it reacts to the idea that the smaller predator may get a piece of food that it could have. You can see this kind of behavior in a home aquarium. Large fish may go off their feed, but the addition of several youngsters may stimulate better eating.

IMITATION OF A FLOUNDERING BAIT! One of my favorite plugs is a pencil popper. Lots of fishermen refrain from using this plug because it does tire out the arms and requires some practice to use. However, this plug is a fantastic fish catcher. I believe the reason for this is that the pencil popper imitates a baitfish that has been previously attacked and has been wounded. Large predators simply can't resist the idea of putting the hit on such a helpless critter. The pencil popper is a long, tapered plug that looks like an elongated teardrop. It is weighted in the end so that it casts well, but the plug itself floats so that the narrow end sticks up above the surface of the water and the fat part hangs down. Now, the plug must be worked so that it flops around, but does not move forward very much. In order to achieve this, the angler needs a big stick and must pump the rod so that it vibrates rapidly while reeling in very slowly. This action, imparted by the fisherman, causes the plug to flop from side to side, roll, and jump almost in place. This imitates almost exactly the activity of a wounded fish desperately struggling to regain its ability to swim. It is often hard to work this plug when there is no wind and no current because it is so hard to keep any tension on the line without reeling at a substantial pace. If the pencil popper moves forward too quickly, a fish will usually not strike. A wind or current can move the popper sideways since predators are accustomed to this motion and can sense the current or water movement. Pencil poppers are extremely effective on blues and the larger blues go ape for it. It is also a good plug for large stripers when you can get their attention at the surface. Okay, folks, I pass the ball to you. If any of you have any additional ideas, send them in.

WHAT'S A MAHSEER? S. A. Hiro of Nesconset wants to know. "Regarding Fred Guardineer's page 15 column of several months ago: please ask Dr. Muller to hunt down the classification of the fish identified as an Indian Mahseer." The fish in question is the Mahseer, scientific name **Barbus tor**. The fish belongs to the family of fishes called **Cyprinidae**, or carps and minnows. So the mahseer then is an overgrown minnow. It is related to other giants in Asia such as the rohu (**Labeo rohito**) and the catla (**Catla catla**). Both of these fish grow to about fifty pounds in weight. Of course, the carp that many of you may be familiar with is also in this group; and although few freshwater fishermen have seen a carp in excess of twenty pounds they do grow to more than one hundred pounds. Of course, carp are not native to this country, but were introduced into the U.S. in the 1880s. At the time, their arrival was eagerly awaited, but soon people began to regard them as pests because they often crowded out other more desirable species such as bass and pickerel, etc. However, scientists claim that the introduction has been successful because, by and large, the carp succeeds in waters that have become too polluted for many of the prized game fish. Anyway, back to the mahseer. The mahseer can reach a length of eight feet and weigh well over one hundred pounds. Oddly enough, the species inhabits both the large, dirty sluggish streams of southern India as well as the clear, cool streams of the

(Continued on page 11.)

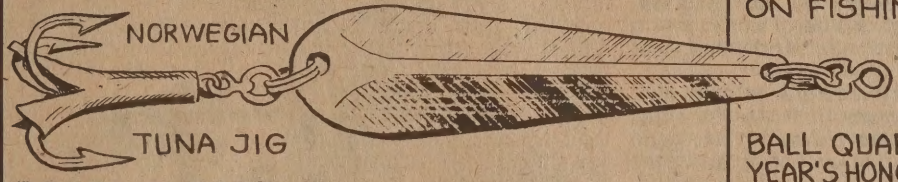
# SEPTEMBER NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

**INSHORE FISHING CONTEST SATURDAY, SEPT. 6, 1980.** THE 7TH ANNUAL *GREAT SOUTH BAY TOURNAMENT*, SPONSORED BY THE BABYLON TUNA CLUB - OPEN TO ALL FISHERMEN AND ALL BOATS, BIG & SMALL. HEADQUARTERS AND REGISTRATION AT THE BABYLON VILLAGE DOCK. 6-9 AM. *FISHING TIME 6AM - 4 PM.* $5.00 PER ANGLER - $50.00 PER CLUB TEAM. *PRIZES FOR* WEAKFISH, BLUEFISH, BLACKFISH, STRIPED BASS, FLOUNDER & FLUKE. *CHAIRMAN AUSTIN KELLY - CALL (516) 884-5453 & (516) 587-4715 (AFTER 7 PM.)*

*ALTERNATE DATE SUNDAY - SEPT. 7.*

**TREBLE HOOKS NOW LEGAL.** THE INTERNAT'L. GAME FISH ASS'N. NOW PERMITS TREBLE HOOKS ON SALTWATER ARTIFICIAL LURES WHEN ESTAB-LISHING WORLD RECORDS BECAUSE MOST FRESH WATER LURES ARE MADE THAT WAY. THE IGFA NOW HANDLES BOTH FRESH & SALTWATER WORLD RECORDS.

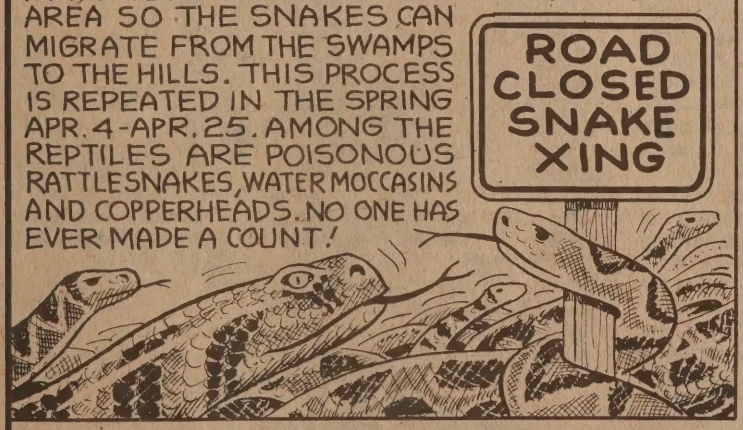



**NAT'L. HUNT. & FISHING DAY** WILL BE OBSERVED NATIONWIDE ON SEPT. 27 AS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE SPORTSMEN FOR THEIR BILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION VIA EXCISE TAXES ON FISHING TACKLE, GUNS & AMMO.

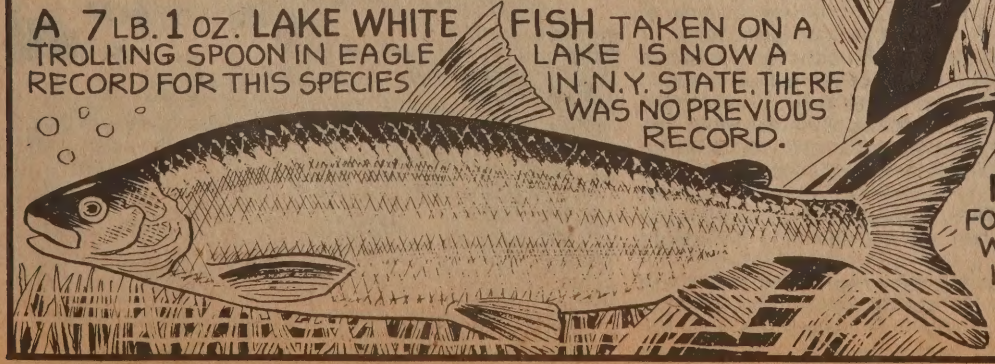
***TERRY BRADSHAW,*** THE FISHING AND HUNTING PRO FOOTBALL QUARTERBACK IS THIS YEAR'S HONORARY CHAIRMAN.

PITTSBURG STEELER TERRY GIVING TIPS TO A YOUNG SHOOTER.

**ROADS CLOSED** TO MOTORISTS SEPT. 24-OCT. 15 IN THE ILLINOIS LA RUE PINE HILLS ECOLOGICAL AREA SO THE SNAKES CAN MIGRATE FROM THE SWAMPS TO THE HILLS. THIS PROCESS IS REPEATED IN THE SPRING APR. 4-APR. 25. AMONG THE REPTILES ARE POISONOUS RATTLESNAKES, WATER MOCCASINS AND COPPERHEADS. NO ONE HAS EVER MADE A COUNT!



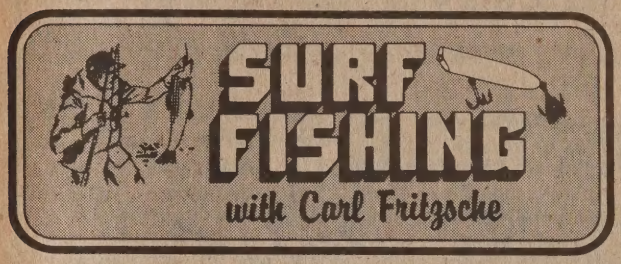

**A 7 LB. 1 OZ. LAKE WHITE FISH** TAKEN ON A TROLLING SPOON IN EAGLE LAKE IS NOW A RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES IN N.Y. STATE. THERE WAS NO PREVIOUS RECORD.



**BEST FISHING DAYS** FOR SEPTEMBER WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW AND FULL* ARE SEPT. 9-23.

As we approach mid-September, another autumn will soon be upon us. I eagerly await the arrival of this season for two reasons. First, it marks the start of my annual vacation, and secondly, it is that time of the year when the surf fisherman comes into his own. The past several years have found me spending vacations on Cape Cod where I have been rewarded with good action for striped bass and bluefish.

Since this geological headland is so vast in scope, this




## Fall Surf Fishing Down-East

article will deal with the lower Cape or northern sector. In order to eliminate any confusion which may arise at this point, the terms "upper" and "lower" mean exactly the opposite in each case. These regional phrases originated with the Pilgrims and remain with us till this day.

The Cape Cod National Seashore, which was established in 1961, governs much of this area. Some of the popular surf fishing beaches are Head of the Meadow, Race Point, and Herring Cove. There are also many town operated beaches such as Ryder, Fisher and Great Hollow situated on the bayside together with Highland, Longnook and Ballston on the ocean or back-side. This is only a sample of some better producing spots found throughout the lower Cape.

The primary goal of most surf fishermen is, of course, Ol Roccus. During the past few years, the lower Cape has provided us with some truly fantastic sport. Many good sized stripers were taken here by anglers fishing along the back-side.

A heavy duty surf rod, coupled with a matching reel, are the credentials one will need for bottom fishing along the outer Cape. My outfit consists of an eleven-and-a-half footer possessing a Penn Spinfisher 704 loaded with twenty-five pound test Ande. I also have a slightly shorter spin "stick" of medium action that's equipped with an identical reel holding twenty pound test. This rod I reserve for the bayside where waters are generally calmer or when casting with lures. One final item that should be a part of every surf fisherman's gear is the indispensable gaff.

The two rigs most commonly employed here are the fish finder and pompano. I usually make up several of these rigs beforehand, affording me an ample supply should the need arise. I then place each one in a separate plastic envelope, thus avoiding the possibility of entanglement.

The fish finder that I and many others use is a tandem hook version. It consists of a 3/0 primary hook and a 2/0 secondary hook. A size 3/0 Eagle Claw is first snelled to a twenty-four inch strand of forty pound test leader material. When drawing this knot tight, be sure the tag end measures at least six inches. This assures you of having enough leeway to snell the secondary hook or stinger. A three inch gap should exist between the points of both hooks. At the opposite end of the leader is added an end loop. The fish finder itself is actually a swivel type device equipped with a nylon sleeve. Pass the main line through this sleeve and fasten to a snap swivel with an improved clinch knot. The leader will connect to this swivel while a sinker is added to the fish finder, completing the setup. The purpose of this rig allows a wary striper to take the bait without detecting the weight of the sinker.

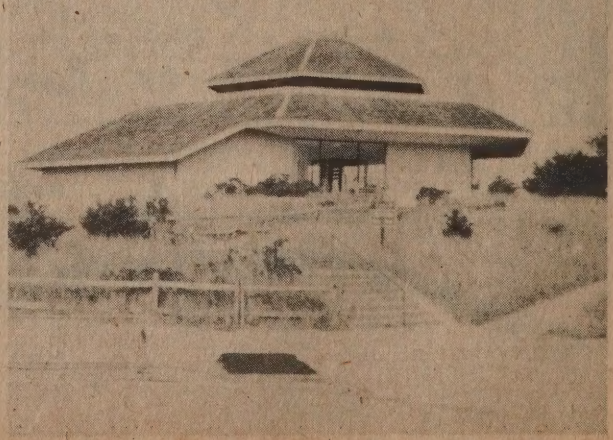
The pompano rig can be fashioned from a thirty inch strand of the same mono. Tie an end loop at each extreme. At least one of these loops should be large enough for the sinker to pass through. Six inches above the sinker tie in a dropper loop and eighteen inches above that loop tie in a second dropper. A size 3/0 Eagle Claw is attached directly to each loop. The remaining end loop connects to a snap fastened to the terminal end of the main line.

Sinker weight will vary depending on the tide and force of current. Moon phases, and to a lesser degree, the influence of the sun are the deciding factors. Generally speaking, a four ounce pyramid should be sufficient in order to hold bottom. However, during the periods of spring tides, five and even six ounces of lead may be necessary.

If the upper Cape is home to the bunker, then the lower Cape has to be sand eel country. This baitfish has surely proven to be the downfall for the majority of stripers landed here. The frequently repeated axiom "match the hatch" definitely can be applied to this region. Even though the frozen variety will do the job, nothing, of course, beats fresh bait. Therefore, if you intend on being here at least a week and plan on subsequent trips in the future, I would suggest buying a sand eel rake and gathering your own. These rakes are sold at most tackle shops within the area and cost about $20. The Pamet River estuary and the shoals of Great Hollow Beach are two of the more popular places for harvesting this baitfish.

The baiting procedure for these two rigs is a fairly simple task. The pompano rig can be baited by following

**The author with a 48 pound striper he landed at Ballston Beach. It took a sand eel on the bottom hook of a pompano rig.**



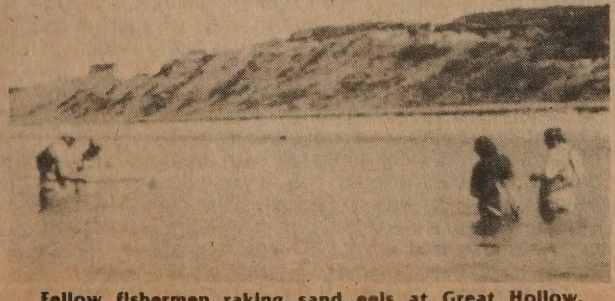
**The Province Lands Visitor Center is staffed by members of the National Park Service. They are both courteous and informative, some of them are even surf fishermen, too.**

three basic steps. First, pass the point of the hook through the eye sockets. Next, slide the sand eel up the shank till the snout reaches the hook's eye. Finally, hook again by inserting the barb into the upper portion of the eel. Sand eels hooked in such a fashion have a greater chance of remaining intact and at the same time, will seem more lifelike in appearance. The method used for the fish finder is really quite similar. The forward hook is passed through both eyes while the secondary hook is embedded toward the tail. Here, again, because of its elongated position, the sand eel will have a natural appearance.

Should crabs become bothersome, a cork float added to the leader may alleviate this problem. However, sometimes crabs will be so numerous they simply will "walk the line," so to speak. On such occasions, it will be best to move to another location.

In addition to crabs, some other bottom dwellers encountered here are the little skate and spiny dogfish. When these two species are heavily concentrated, they can really play havoc with the bait. Although considered fine table fare in many European countries, most American anglers regard them as a nuisance. This brings to mind a few personal thoughts concerning this subject. While walking the shore line I have often discovered the remains of skates and mutilated dogfish left behind by thoughtless fishermen. I realize it can be a very frustrating experience hooking one after another, not to mention the fact that many a rig is ruined in the process—but to needlessly snuff out their existence because of these factors just does not make any sense. Let's not forget—these creatures are merely fulfilling their roles in the Creator's scheme of things. I believe The Fisherman has a good motto in saying, "Keep what you can use and use what you keep."

As an added bonus some nice size fluke flourish here as well. This five pounder held by my Mom was taken at Herring Cove.



Fellow fishermen raking sand eels at Great Hollow. Several other beaches in the area are noted for their abundance of these baitfish.

The Great Beach extending from Nauset Inlet to Race Point is renown for the numerous sand bars stretching along its shore. Many of these bars are in proximity to the beach, creating troughs where various baitfish seek refuge. Stripers and blues will often move in to feed here, especially during the upper stages of the tide.

Just as celestial bodies influence tidal flow, so does the element of weather effect surf fishing. Wind direction is a key factor. An onshore breeze is most favorable, since it pushes baitfish closer to the beach. Do not make the mistake of some anglers by seeking the lee side. A north or northeast wind is preferred for the outer Cape, while south, southwest and west is best on the bay side.

Although a certain percentage of blues will be caught while bottom fishing for stripers, the majority of those landed here are taken by anglers casting with lures. A wire leader is essential, but be sure the barrel swivel attached to its end has a dull finish. Blues are noted for striking at anything having the slightest bit of glitter. Many of your standard popping plugs will produce and popular tins like the Kastmaster and Hopkins also take their share. The presence of terns or gulls dipping and diving just above the waves is a sure sign that blues are down below. The appearance of a slick on the water's surface is another good clue. Sometimes a school of marauding blues will move directly into the wash to feed on hapless baitfish. One day last year, I was fortunate to have witnessed such a frenzy at Head of the Meadow. Countless herring in their frantic flight to escape these predators were left stranded on the beach. This is really a sight to behold! At times like this, one could probably toss out a shoehorn and get a hit.

Surf fishing from the outer Cape has one drawback. At certain times, these waters will become saturated with moss—a cotton-like seaweed which clings to the line. Needless to say, when confronted with such conditions fishing will be next to impossible. Your only alternative is switching over to the bay side.

At this time of the year, all parking fields are free and a residency sticker is not required for township beaches. However, parking at National Seashore Beaches from midnight to 6AM is prohibited, except to those fishermen displaying permits. This permit is free of charge and may be obtained at the Province Lands Visitor Center located near Race Point Beach. It is also available at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham and National Seashore Headquarters in Wellfleet.

After Labor Day much of the summer crowd will be gone, yet many motels and cottages will continue to remain open at least until mid-October. During this time, lower rates will be in effect. In addition to these accommodations, there are several trailer parks throughout this area to accompany the mobile vacationer.

Depending upon your whereabouts, Cape Cod can be reached via any interstate highway leading to Route 3 or Route 195. Both of these roads, in turn, connect to the Mid-Cape Highway better known as Route 6. This highway bisects the Cape and terminates near Provincetown at its northern tip.

Before concluding this article, allow me to voice a few personal comments. Since first coming to the Cape about five years ago, I have been staying at Highland Acres in North Truro. This place has a nice cluster of individual housekeeping cottages overlooking Cape Cod Bay. It is a great feeling traveling here every autumn and looking forward to meeting friends from past seasons. We are all here for the same reason and that is to do what we enjoy the most. I guess you could say it is like having a family reunion.

Besides being a surf fishing paradise, Cape Cod is as good a place as any to get away from it all. Perhaps the great naturalist Henry David Thoreau said it best: "Here a man can stand and put all of America behind him."

An area which accommodates the daily pressures of hundreds upon hundreds of New York and New Jersey fishermen for over a century, an area which continues to provide recreation and enjoyment today, such an area must indeed be considered unique. Such claim to fame is held by that vast region known as the New York Bight. It is so unique that after more than fifty years of continuous fishing in its waters, many fishermen can truthfully say they (to put it bluntly) have never been skunked. They had, and still have, their poor days along

## MORE THIS & THAT

with the good; but all in all, complaints are few and far between.

It is in this area where I, along with most of us, first began saltwater fishing. It wasn't until many years later that I heard it referred to as the New York Bight; I don't even know if it was actually called that back in the old days. I know only that over fifty years ago during the days when one's survival in fog and snowstorm depended solely upon the skill of the skipper and his well-developed sixth sense (no radar or other electronics then), the New York Bight was an adventure-filled place to fish. And I've certainly had my share of adventure—from the tragedy of shipwreck, to gladsome days filled with humor, good friends, and superb fishermen.

The shipwreck I've already written about and I couldn't bear to go over that again; I would much rather dwell on those minor happening which put spice in the life of many fishermen. This is especially so when one realizes that all those happenings of the time have become deeply ingrained. Old-timers have found these events have been much fun to recall and share over the years with others.

So, with that, let's continue.

As huge an area as the New York Bight is, we old-timers didn't find every square foot of it provided good fishing. There were then, as now, many "dead" spots. Some areas offered good fishing for only short periods of time. In this respect, it was strictly a case of feast or famine. Right off the top of my head, I can remember one such spot which yielded huge sea porgies only in September. Those other eleven months never produced so much as a bergall. This good fishing area (a mussel bed) lay northeast of Sandy Hook and when the porgies hit in there in late summer, the fishing often bordered on the fantastic—but only for those few short weeks.

Some good fishing areas of the old days are no longer producing; if they are, it is being kept a deep, dark secret. One such area was called "The Dumps"—which is exactly what it was. It was strictly a dumping area in the sea used by the City of New York into which was released tons and tons of garbage, coal ashes, and related household materials, all jettisoned from especially-built scows, and often on a daily basis—weather permitting.

The garbage quickly disappeared, but the hard stuff remained, and because of that it may have become the Bight's first artificial reef, although no one to my knowledge had purposely intended this to be so.

The Dumps lay about four miles south and east of Ambrose Lightship—but please don't hold me to that, for I am not at all certain that this is correct, but I have the feeling it's fairly close. We often fished the area for cod and ling. It never produced spectacular fishing, but it always came through with something to keep us occupied. It was a good place to hit on slow days, for it was then when it seemed to provide much-needed action.

The Dumps was also a fun place to fish—if you possessed a sense of humor. A fisherman never knew what he'd snag and winch to the surface. I've seen discarded bicycle frames reeled or handlined in (one I particularly recall as a real old two-seater), plus those large coffee urns one sees in diners, even old, old typewriters, and I once handlined in the steel footboard of a cot. Yes—to enjoy fishing The Dumps, a fisherman had to have a sense of humor. I often thought our skippers of the day stopped in this area simply to disperse the gloom and grouchiness of those fishermen who suffered the pangs of slow fishing. If so, they succeeded admirably.

In those long ago times, we used to catch varieties of fish one rarely sees today. We found Staten Island's Princess Bay the home of the croaker—a relative of the drumfish family: channel bass, etc. This fish was never large, one pound or so, compact of body, with a slightly underslung mouth. Its color ranged from silvery to a brassy tinge, which was especially highlighted in the sun. It was also a fairly good scrapper for its size. Croakers were never abundant, even then, and most were caught when fishing for lafayettes, which we kids used as chum and for bait when bluefishing off Sandy Hook.

Often when nighttime eeling in back bays (especially in Island Park creeks), we would catch spotted codling. Codling were much like their namesake in appearance: a subtle mixture of cod and ling, with a row of white spots running along each side of its dark brown body. The inside of its mouth was milk-white. They were never big and I doubt if I ever caught one larger than a half-pound.

When ocean fishing in winter or early spring, we used to catch barndoor skate—often on a regular basis. This skate should not be confused with the common—or little skate—which fluke fishermen sometimes catch in summer. The barndoor skate, while never as large around Long Island as its name implies, did on occasion reach quite respectable weights—say thirty pounds. I've seen bigger, but thirty pounds was the largest I can recall catching.

While never over-abundant, barndoor skates were simply a nuisance and to hook into one meant trouble for those fishermen nearest you at the rail. Should they be unfamiliar with the antics of a hooked barndoor (swimming in powerful, ever-widening circles), and should they fail to heed your warnings, they soon found their lines tangled around the beast. It wasn't unusual to find a half-dozen rigs so tightly snarled, a sharp knife was the only solution. Catching barndoor skates certainly offered little enjoyment.

There isn't a sinker bouncer with fishing time under his belt who hasn't lost a big fish. Try as we might, we fishermen just can't escape these sad events and to preserve our sanity, it is best we consider them part of the fishing game—par for the course, if you will.

Most times the fish is lost sight unseen and while this is bad enough, those that are lost within seconds of being decked truly hurt. I've certainly lost my share of big fish over the years—and I can remember every one. Those memories still produce a pang. They still hurt!

But the most painful of all on my list of lost fish was that first one: a cod. It was a fish I definitely knew was big because I saw it short feet from me as I stood there at the rail, helpless to do anything about it.

I was but seventeen-years-old at the time of this sad experience and because of that I suppose I can excuse myself for much of my disheartened feelings. I thought at the time that I'd never see the likes of such a codfish again. But of course I have; but as I say, when you're seventeen-years-old...

Anyway, it was February 3, 1932, a Thursday (you can see my record books are still in there pitching), and I was fishing the 17 Fathom Bank aboard the old Pioneer II out of Canarsie. We were doing fair with the blackfish, but the cod we expected offered only a pick here and there. In other words, it was a typical slow day. My rig was standard: two tandem-tied blackfish hooks on bottom and one cod hook tied in about three feet above the sinker, which, of course, is similar to what we use today.

Seventeen Fathom Bank is known for its large, bait-stealing bergalls and because of that I had baited the bottom hooks with slices of tough, leather-like conch,

which is the only bait I know capable of bending the teeth of larcenous bergalls. On the top hook for that possible cod, I had impaled half a conch which I'd thoroughly pounded and more or less tenderized into the size of a small pancake.

I had no cod as yet and my catch of blackfish was nothing to write home about, but I kept at it. Sometime in early afternoon, a flurry of cod action made itself known. These fish weren't large—perhaps ten to twelve pounds—but the action was enough to get everyone on board out of the doldrums. Eventually both fishermen on each side of me hooked into a cod, as did several other fellows along the rail. I knew my turn had to come soon.

And it did—but not in the way I expected. Instead of getting a heavy codfish bite, I felt a slight pick, similar to that made by a wary blackfish. Damn, I remember saying to myself. Of all the times! My undisciplined reflexes took over and I came back on the fish, expecting either a blackfish or a good-sized bergall. But instead, I had hooked into a cod. And it wasn't one of those ten to twelve pounders. Of this I was certain, for that cod put a set in my old converted hickory pool-cue rod as none other I'd caught before ever did. I called for the gaff in no uncertain terms.

Now seventeen fathoms translated into a land-man's terms equals 102', but on 17 Fathom Bank there are but one or two places which are actually that depth; most fishing areas run 125' to 150'. And I felt that day as if we were fishing in the deepest spot of all. That wooden sidewinder reel certainly got a workout that day. I thought I was never going to bring that cod to the surface. As cod do, it pounded every few feet which, in turn, caused me to cease reeling and hang on. This was some fish! Mental pictures of that fisherman on the old Scott's Emulsion bottle flashed before me. I was sure to be the envy of the neighborhood fishermen when I returned home with that fish.

Eventually, I did winch that cod to the surface where it lay undulating in the swells, belly up, exhausted. An easy thirty-five pounds—the largest cod I'd caught up to then. I again called for the gaff, but no one showed. I noticed then that other cod were being decked and it was necessary for me to wait my turn.

It was about then when the cod made a sudden movement and I noticed to my despair that I hadn't caught it on the cod hook at all. There in its upper lip was one of my small blackfish hooks.

The hook was deeply embedded and I suppose all would have gone well except for one thing. During those days, most hooks were snelled with tarred line which was wrapped tightly to the shank with silk thread. And it was because of this that I lost my first big fish. The silk wrapping had become frayed somehow (perhaps it was my fault; perhaps I didn't check each time I brought the rig up for rebaiting—I don't know). But anyway, it took only a bit of extra strain for that tarred snell to pull free of the hook—which it did seconds before the mate showed with the gaff.

He made several swipes at the fish as it slowly sank into the depths. But it was beyond reach. Down, down, down it went, belly up, through crystal-clear green water and just before it become lost to view, it feebly righted itself. It was the only good part of the day.

I could have cried—and maybe I did.

So ends the story on the loss of my first big fish. It wasn't the last by any means—and between you, me, and that proverbial lamppost, I'm sure there will be more in the future.

If you have any comment about this article, get in touch with me at my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. I'll be glad to hear from you and we'll kick it around a bit. Don't forget there is a contest running in this column for the best story on old-time fishing. Something on the type of what you've just read is what we're looking for. So if you have had such experiences, have been told of one, or know a few old-time bottom fishing stories, enter the contest. Each month's winner is awarded a pretty nice Shakespeare spinning reel.

It could be yours.

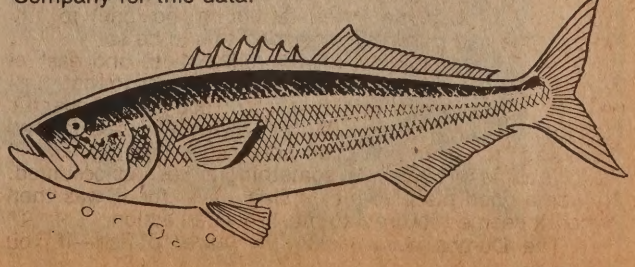
# Fish Talk:
# UGLY STIK WINNER

(Continued from page 6.)

Himalayas. This means that the species is adaptable and hardy. In India the species is regarded as a sport fish, but one must remember that there is little sport fishing in India. Thus, Fred suggested that a hard fishing American tourist might get him or herself an easy world's record.

AN INTERESTING NOTE FROM MECLI. George Wilde, who has been the guardian of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island often sends me tidbits about marine ecology and one recent excerpt from a newspaper column we thought might be of general interest. As we know, the sun bombards us with several types of radiation. Included are ultra-violet radiation that gives us sunburn, and infra-red radiation that gives us heat. The newspaper article points out that scientists have known for a long time that ultra-violet radiation is deadly to some creatures—at different doses. It has been demonstrated, for example, that fish eggs that float can be killed by high levels of ultra-violet radiation. One such fish species is the striped bass. Scientists working on the West Coast have reported that there are threshold levels of U.V. exposure for shrimp and crab larvae. Now, the amount of ultra-violet radiation that reaches the surface of this planet normally varies with the seasons. Because the angle of the sun is extreme in winter, the amount of U.V. that reaches the surface is low. By early summer, however, the sun is almost overhead and U.V. levels exceed the threshold levels of the shrimp and crabs. The cycle of reproduction of these crustaceans matches the U.V. cycle—by no accident. Most planktonic critters (or larger organisms with a larvae stage that is planktonic) reproduce in late winter. At this time of year (in the northern hemisphere), U.V. is low, there are abundant nutrients in estuaries, and waters are starting to warm. The larvae have changed, however, by early summer and begin to migrate to the bottom where they become more like their parents and are safely away from the ultra-violet radiation. Scientists are concerned that if the ozone layer, which blocks much of the lethal radiation from the sun, continues to thin because of man's pollution activities, that perhaps a lethal level of ultra-violet radiation may be reached in late winter when many of these sensitive organisms are spawned and this might reduce productivity enormously.

DATA ON COMMERCIAL FISHING. So often we hear about how big, economically, commercial fishing is for those areas where it occurs. Recently, sport fishermen have been gathering data to show that recreational fishing is often a bigger industry. This is important data to counteract the commercial fishermen's propaganda. In Florida, for example, total commercial retail sales were $160,000,000 with about 17,000 people employed. However, the freshwater sport fishing industry alone amounted to $520,000,000. In 1975, 34,700 retail level jobs and 83,739 additional indirectly related jobs were involved in the recreational fishing industry. In saltwater, recreational fishermen contributed more than six times the dollars to the economy of Florida than all commercial fishermen. Yet, too often we see that commercial fishing interests have more to say about rules and regulations than sport fishermen. We need to organize so that we can turn this situation around. Thanks to Heddon Tackle Company for this data.



# HOW ABOUT PORGIES?

## Part One — by Capt John DeMaio

The porgy is a victim of snobbery, misunderstanding and prejudice. I have arrived at this opinion after operating a charter boat these past years. Just try and get your party to fish porgies and you will understand.

My approach to fishing is a preference for action. I would rather anchor over a pile of porgies and have some solid action, than to troll for five hours in hopes of catching a couple of bass. Unfortunately, I seem to stand alone in this matter—well, almost. Even to suggest porgy fishing on one tide, and then bass the next is met with faces of disapproval.

There are periods when the bass fishing is so poor that it hardly seems worth the effort. And, the bluefish are among the missing. This is often true of springtime bass fishing. Bluefish haven't arrived yet and the bass vanish for periods of time. The month of June is a perfect example. On days like these I will explain to my party, in a subtle manner, "The bass fishing stinks. How about fishing for porgies?" Ninety percent of the time the reaction is negative.

The first reply is, "How about fluke?" Or "They're full of bones." Generally, these remarks and many more, are accompanied with physical reactions. Some people make a face as if they were sucking a lemon; but mostly it is broad grins and giggles—as if someone had just told a cute political joke.

Pity the poor porgy. If he knew how lowly the regard given him, the little bugger would have a complex. All this dislike is undeserving and unwarranted. It's a composite result of my opening sentence.

Many people are fishing snobs—especially when they charter a Montauk boat. Besides the disappointment of slow, or bad bass fishing, they're given a second best of porgies. Some letdown. Snobbery is very close to prejudice and if I go further into this, I will step over the line. Misunderstanding is the number one cause in a lack of porgy interest. People just don't know.

First off, let me explain to those who don't know Montauk. Montauk is blessed with excellent bottom formation and growth that is ideal for sea porgies. When I say sea porgies, that is what I mean. The biggest porgy taken on my boat every year will be around four pounds. (Most of these jokers who put the knock on porgies never saw one over a pound-and-a-half, never mind a four pound jolter.) June is the best month for consistently big porgies. Later on in the summer, you will have to accept mixed size fish.

Also, people don't know how well a porgy will fight. They are great fighting fish that can easily tear loose off the hook when caught in a running tide. For family sport they are ideal. Unlike the boring pace of trolling an occasional bass, or the extremely dull action of fluke fishing, porgy jerking will bring a smile to a child's face. Instead of getting into trouble and being a regular pain in the butt on the boat, the porgy fun will keep children entertained. No need to tell you parents how difficult it is to keep your kids amused.

Then I get the one about the bones. Porgies **are not** full of bones. They have the regular amount. Granted, small porgies, the type found up and down the south shore, may be a tedious chore trying to eat. Not the Montauk variety; they can be filleted and taken home boneless.

As for eating, they have become the number one summer fish in my family. While filleting them, my appetite gets going and I can't wait to get home and deep fry them in a tempura batter. A fresh salad (a tomato salad is best), bread sticks and a fine dry white wine tops off a delicious meal.

At a time when skates and dogfish are selling at the dock for thirty cents a pound, I believe porgies deserve a justified place on the dinner table.

The prejudice I have saved for last because it interweaves amid snobbery and misunderstanding. It is an ugly specter that appears before us continually.

To be born and raised in New York City and to say that you have never committed a prejudiced act or had less than semitic thoughts would be a bold-faced lie. In early grade school I was the territorial defender—of the block I lived on, my school yard, and the classroom. It was I who would fight the colored kid after school. I was a scrappy kid who wouldn't "take any crap," from anyone? What a joke! Me, **The Great White Hope**...in the fourth and fifth grades.

By the sixth grade, I began to slow down. Everyone was outgrowing me. (I think that Black kid grew up to be

Too Tall Jones.) I began to use my head instead of my fists. My participating sport went from football to basketball. My relationships with people were to be more on an intelligent level and less pugilistic. Although those early school years would never leave me, in my adult years, my mind opened up to allow new understanding. Because of this awakening, I was to experience some wonderful associations and friendships that have left me with fond memories—both in my military service and civilian life.

What emerged during those years of thinking was a concept of being "Americanized." Even though you know, through experience, the character and behavior patterns of all the ethnic groups, you meet people as individuals. Never to condemn an entire race because of a bad experience.

Here in the United States all the varied peoples have created the "American Society" by contributing their separate cultures. This is the United States! Still, there are those who would rather hate than love. Those who need to think that someone is beneath their station. By way of demonstrating this, they show contempt for the culture of others. Entertainment, sports, clothing and food. This attitude can be carried to the point of self-denial. Cutting off one's nose to spite your face—and never to realize that's what you have done.

So it goes with the porgy. Because it is actively sought by our Black brothers, it is looked down upon by some whites. Could this be the bottom line of bigotry? To vent your hatred on a fish? Isn't it silly? Isn't it pathetic? That's the way it is.

As usual the prejudice is without foundation. Even though you see the headboats, those advertising porgy fishing, sailing Black fishermen, the Blacks are not the number one buyer of porgies on the New York market. Some years back, I asked one of the dealers at the Fulton Market, "Who are the biggest users of porgies in New York?" It turned out to be the Orientals. So you see, the blacks have aligned themselves with fish-eating experts. The Orientals are, without a doubt, the most talented sect of people in the culinary art of handling fish.

Anyway, why pick on the porgy. How about fluke? The Jews are crazy about fluke. Why not some anti-semitism against fluke? Don't forget the Italians either. (Maybe we had better forget the Italians; there's nothing they don't eat. If we turned up our noses at everything that group eats, we wouldn't have anything left to fish for.)

So there it is. I certainly hope I have offended someone. Of course, I still prefer my chicken roasted. My favorite vegetable is broccoli, not greens. I, too, have likes and dislikes that go back to my family upbringing. If we all respected each other's way, it would be a better world—on the water.

You can kill a good thing by overdoing it. Too much porgy jerking can make you nuts. Before I began to charter, I put a lot of time into commercial fishing porgies. Day after day of ups and downs with the sinker is maddening. My back would ache from bending over to handle the bait. Pulling the anchor. In and out with the chum pot, and shucking skimmer clams added to the labor. At day's end a box of porgies were evenly matched with a tired body and butchered hands. I often think that was the reason I began to charter. To get away from the porgy fishing.

Things haven't changed much today. I still must pull anchors, work chum pots and prepare bait. It is labor-some and expensive. Yet I am willing to do this in hopes of adding some spice to a day's fishing. At least I was willing. In the future, I will only pursue porgies on request. The easy way is the best.

Striped bass are not the only fish that require skill to catch. Try fishing porgies for a few years and you will respect the angler who can consistently throw up a good catch of big porgies on the dock day after day. Captain Ronnie Lepper said it: "A good fisherman is an all-round fisherman."

So for those of you open-minded liberals who wish to try jerking porgies, a Part II will follow on how to catch PORGIES—the big ones.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# WEAKFISH MADNESS

## by Richard Giessuebel

There has got to be reasons why, year after year, weakfish return to the very same locations they were in the preceding year. Little places along the beach that don't see too many fishermen see the weaks come back and feed along their shores with uncanny accuracy. Good spots, those frequented by many anglers, also see the return of the weakfish. However, with such enormous pressure the return per angler never can approach the return per angler on the other more desolate beaches. Weakfish also renew yearly their desires to feed near dusk and on high tides. Therefore, they are predictable and if you study their rhythm you can get a better understanding of where they will be, when. With this information in hand, you can descend upon them with impact. In this article, I'll give you things to look for to better help you find an established pattern, areas that have proven to be hotspots over the years, tackle and bait requirements, and methods used to best do a number on this game fish species.

Let's begin by going over the areas that the weakfish return to every year. One place that they don't miss is Stapleton. Here, they feed upon many of the baitfish varieties that're found swimming in the narrows. You can catch them on lures cast off of the many piers that flank the river in this section.

Favorite lures include the Mepps Striper Killers that both imitate giant spearing and small bunker, three ounce Danny Plugs that are bunker look-alikes, and bucktails that, adorned with teaser tails of strips of mackerel or squid, or pork rind, simply fool the pants off of these beautiful fish.

Of course, knowing when the fish are in the Narrows is the key to catching them. Reports must be scrutinized. When it becomes obvious that the fish are in the area, the time is right to make several early morning ventures down to these docks to see firsthand just what's going on. Should your efforts prove to be worthwhile, then you'll be able to keep scoring on a daily basis; however, should you not succeed, then you'll have to gather some more information to help you with your up-and-coming ventures.

Information that's valuable is to know which tides are the best. You may have begun fishing on a bad set of tides. Therefore, you didn't get any fish. Whereas, you may have begun on a good set of tides, caught fish and not taken the tides into consideration. Therefore, you'd run the risk of returning next week when the wrong tides are back at it. What's going on here? Well, for one, I'm saying that you've got to keep records. These records have got to be implicit. They must list such things as the time of day, the tidal conditions, the lures used, and any other extenuating circumstances, that may have affected your attempts to catch fish such as, the water was very muddy, or there was a lot of seaweed drifting by.

If you scrutinized my records of last year, a very important picture becomes evident. ALL my weakfish were caught in Stapleton before the sun was up. Every one struck a lure on an outgoing tide. On days when I fished at other times or other tidal flows, I didn't receive as much as a strike. With this information, I look at reports, and then when I think it's time to get over to the piers, I check the tides. If they're incoming, I look to see when they'll change. If they won't be running out well before dawn, I don't go to fish here. Now, if you hear me say this is a good place to fish, but don't take into consideration the other important facts, then you'll **never** catch a fish here. So, keep your ears open, take it all in, keep good records, and when it becomes obvious that you're catching fish, look at those records and see if you can't put some picture together.

The next place to get weakfish is at New Dorp Beach. You find this beach by riding out Hylan Blvd. to New Dorp Avenue. There you make a left and go out to the beach. Once at the end of New Dorp Avenue, you can park just about anywhere. Then walk out onto the beach. Directly in front of you, you will find a long jetty that has sand on the north side and water on the other. Walk out to the end of the jetty. There you will find the end of the New Dorp Avenue storm sewer. This place is actually the end of a strip of sand stretching all the way down from the Verrazano Narrows Bridge passing such beaches as South Beach, Midland Beach, and finally New Dorp Beach. Here, weakfish come into feed on a daily, or more correctly, on a nightly basis. They feed along this shore at night. The prime time to get 'em here is at a high tide fished very near to dusk.

One big weakfish that I caught here last year fell to a Mepps Striper Killer. I saw fish working off the surf. The sun still hadn't risen; however, it was light enough to see the commotion about 150 yards off the beach. Although I couldn't reach these fish with this very light lure, I continued to cast it. Eventually, the breaking fish got in closer and a big tiderunner slammed into the shaking spoon. It was just about high tide and before it got light, we caught several more.

Another way that I like to fish this beach is to cast for fluke. I bait with snapper blues and believe it or not, weakfish simply like to cream just such an offering. It's not uncommon for me to get several weakfish along with many fluke from this beach on a rising tide very near to dusk each year.

Now, since we're on New Dorp Avenue; if you go out and cross Hylan Blvd., then go about four blocks to North New Dorp Plaza. Make a left turn here and within a block-and-a-half on your right, you'll come to J.F. Tackle Shop. Here you can get just about anything that you'll require including the most up-to-date fishing reports that you'll need.

Back out to Hylan and make a right to get to our next good weakfish location. This is at Great Kills Harbor or Gateway Federal Park. Make a left to get out into the park and follow the road to the end. Here you'll find a big parking area. Get out and continue south. This will bring you within 100 steps of the inlet to Great Kills Harbor. You'll find a jetty and a stretch of sandy beach on both sides of it. Off the jetty and beach facing south, you'll find the channel leading out of the harbor. It's in this channel that the majority of the weaks caught here come from. Also, we fish here at night more than at any other time.

We might arrive here at about dusk, but what we really want to do at this time is catch bait. We'll set out to get either fresh bunker or snapper blue. Both make excellent baits when fished on the bottom well out into the

channel. Should the weaks come in, this is the best way to catch 'em. On well lit nights, casting lures isn't too bad a ticket, but if the fish aren't in, it can become very tedious. Therefore, we'll usually fish bait, have some good conversation, and wait for the fish to come in. Soon after the first fish is caught, we certainly break out the casting poles and cast all kinds of swimming plugs, spoons, and bucktails out into the channel. On some nights, all our efforts come up blues. On others, it's weakfish. However, because of this mixed bag, you've got to be prepared to catch each.

The major difference between the weakfish rig and the one used for the blue is that the latter must have a length of wire leader attached to it. Also, since at night you can get away with wire leader on the weaks, we use about a foot of wire on all our rigs.

The rig we fish is a fish finder rig. To make it, simply run a weight up your line. Impede its downward progress with a barrel swivel. Run about eighteen inches of line and leader off of the swivel, bait up, and you're in business. Should you find the crabs to be too much of a nuisance, you can always place a cork bobber somewhere between the barrel swivel and the bait. However, you've got to be careful here so that the float doesn't raise your bait out of the strike zone. On the other side, should the crabs keep getting your bait, you've got to move the float closer to it.

Below Great Kills Harbor, you come to the southern shore of Staten Island. Weakfish are also caught here. However, beach fishing seems to be a forgotten sport. You hardly ever see anyone fishing here other than the youngsters who are normally in pursuit of their favorite species, the snapper blue. Where there's snapper blues, there's going to be weakfish. So, don't pass up these southern beaches. Get out there and give it a go. Remember, if you get into weakfish, you won't have much in the way of competition.

Offshore, it's quite a different story. Many guys fish this area for weakfish. They drift in the channel here, especially around buoys #34 to #40 right here in Princess Bay. Worms are the ticket, but a lot of guys will bucktail with a teaser tail attached.

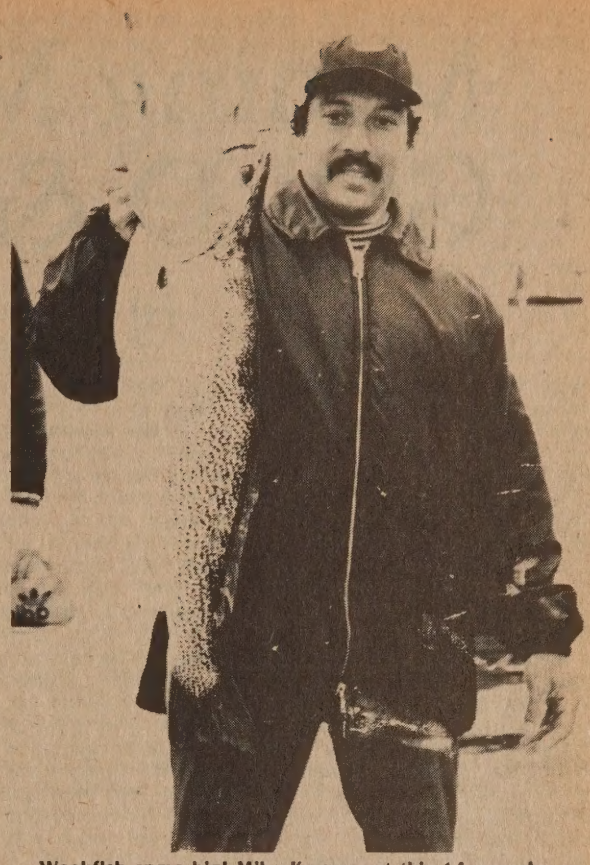
Further north, guys troll single tubes for weaks around the mouth of Great Kills Harbor on out to Old Orchard Shoals. The tubes that proved to be very effective last year were the darker colored ones, especially those of deep purple or black. Probably resembling a small eel, these tubes if bounced off the bottom drew hits when other trolling lures didn't. Once into weaks, the angler has to make a decision. Should he continue to troll, drop some bait back, or break out the bucktail jigs.

What I attempt to do is to get a third or fourth member of my party over the side with either bait or lure while I either reel in or net the fish that's been hooked on the trolling pole. Then, should a second fish be hooked, we drift and fish for awhile. Something else you can do in a situation like this is to attach a balloon to the first weakfish caught and set him free. If you put a length of line between the fish and balloon of about forty feet, you'll be able to stay with the weakfish wherever he goes. Since weakfish are schooling fish, your first catch will be able to keep you right on up with the school, and all you'll have to do is to get bait out in front of them.

One bait that's often overlooked while weakfishing is squid. This is a mistake! Squid is a fantastic weakfish bait and when fished on an over and under rig, it's simply deadly on weakfish. I like to use gold #2/0 bait holder hooks which I extend some two inches off my leader: one directly above my weight, and the other up about a foot-and-a-half. Bait with anything you want—but, don't forget about squid.

If I'm going to fish the tides for weakfish at, let's say Chapel Hill Channel, then I like to use sheddar crabs or bucktails. Of course, I'd never go out here either without a couple of dozen worms. Then, whatever their preference, I'm on top of it.

In Chapel Hill Channel, we like to fish before dawn around bell buoy #5, black nun #3 is also good on an outgoing tide. On an incoming tide, then we fish off of the red cans or numbers 2 to 6. On occasions, reports tell you that the pier is hot after dark and we just might come over



**Weakfish come big! Mike Kersey got this 14 pounder on a green banana just off the Romer Shoal Light.**

here to fish off of the Ammunitions Pier where there's a lot of light shining in the water attracting a lot of baitfish. At times like these, we like to liveline snapper blues.

The other end of the channel can also produce weakfish, however, I'd rather troll down here than drift. This is only because if I'm in the channel, I much prefer to fish the other end. But, on occasions when I'm heading home or over to Norton's Point, I'll troll through this area, and I've caught fish. Therefore, I'll troll through here near cans #10 to #14. There's also good fishing for fluke right here, so I might get a high low rig down and see if the fluke or weaks cooperate.

Crossing Ambrose Channel at this point, we head for Norton's Point. This point is easy to find since it's at the western end of Coney Island. Here, we'll troll along the beach right in front of Coney Island, or we'll move off into the Gravesend Bay. All of these places are great after dark. What we like to do here after dark is to listen for weakfish. Often, they will get bait up to the surface and you can get in on a lot of action. However, fish here during the day to get real familiar with the area. Then, should you hear that they're catching fish out here after dark, it won't be such a scary experience.

Finally, we like to troll around Romer Shoals. Not only can you get weakfish out here, but there are a lot of bass and blues, too. Because of this, we do a lot of bucktailing here. The bucktails that we use always have teaser tails on them. The teaser tail that's most widely used around here is the Mr. Twister Tail. However, if you use them, you'd better have plenty on hand, because should you run into a school of blues out here of any size, they'll soon make jelly stubs out of all your tails. Therefore, be prepared to fish some strip bait off your lure.

Well, that's about it. I've named a lot of good places and given you a lot of good approaches to use to score. Weakfishing isn't easy! For some reason, you may know exactly where they are and they won't bite. So you go for several days and then when you're about to give up, they go on a rampage. So, be patient, hang in there, and eventually, you'll have your day.

# Mining Montauk's GOLD & SILVER

## by Ron Onorato

It wasn't very long ago that on any given day during the summer months, you could count on bagging a couple of nice stripers in the early morning hours under Montauk's Light or down around the backside. It was possible to get a couple of nice fish plus a mess of schoolies before the sun got very high in the eastern sky. Sadly, this is not the case today. Catching a single striped bass during the summertime is a rare event indeed. Since it is no longer possible to expect to catch a bass at any time other than the spring or fall migrations—and even then it is questionable—the only choice the summertime angler has left is to mine Montauk gold and silver.

Montauk gold is another term applied to the common weakfish, and to the charter boat fleet that sorely misses the striped bass, it is indeed a gold mine. These golden finned gamesters have made up the bulk of the catch during the summer months for both the charter boats and rod and reel fishermen as well. Mixed in with the gold fins are the other half of the term—the silver bellied bluefish. Going hand in hand, these two gamesters have provided enough action for the summertime fleet that was desperately in need of a shot in the arm.

The weakfish have been feeding in the ocean waters off Montauk for the past several years in numbers that are really quite impressive. Large schools have ranged the waters from the Lighthouse right out east to Block Island. And many of these schools are immense masses of fish, holding many thousands. Right along with the weakfish schools are the pods of small bluefish. But all the credit does not go to the gold and silver gamesters alone. Thanks to the acres of sand eels on which these fish are feeding on, the fisherman's job of locating and catching them is that much simplified. When the fish are feeding on sand eels, there are two ways to catch them: the first is by using the diamond jig, and the other method calls for the use of the umbrella rig. At times, it takes a combination of both to put a few fish in the boat. From a sporting point of view, the use of the diamond jig is by far and away the most desirable way to take either the weak or the bluefish. However, the umbrella rig does have some merits and can be a very handy tool to have at your disposal. We'll see how a little later on. The bulk of the work will best lie with the diamond jig, however.

Quite naturally, when the fish are feeding on sand eels, you're going to try to use some sort of lure that will best imitate both the size and the shape of the baitfish. In most cases, when the fish are feeding in water depth exceeding thirty feet, the diamond jig and related lures will work best. There are many times when the fish are feeding in water that is around ten to twenty feet deep, and there is no way that you can effectively work a diamond jig in that shallow water with any degree of consistency. When these occasions arise, and this is especially true on the North side of Montauk around Gin Beach and Inner Shagwong buoy, then a cast bucktail jig will be the more effective lure to use, as would be a dropper ahead of a small RedFin or Rebel plug. Trolled umbrella rigs will take fish, but in the shallow water, the fish are very skittery, and engine noise will move the fish very quickly.

The ideal situation is to have the fish feeding close to the bottom in about forty to fifty feet of water. When the fish are in deeper water and feeding close to the bottom, they are not easily spooked by the engine noise and all that

**Hugh Fitzpatrick shows off a big bass that sneaked in on a school of feeding weaks that were eating sand eels.**

**Two big blues feeding on sand eels — one fell for a diamond jig, the other for a Tri-Fin sand eel jig.**

topside commotion that will follow. The fish also seem to take a diamond jig better in the deeper water closer to the bottom rather than when they are close to the surface and are flying all over the place chasing sand eels out of the water. The fish that are closer to the bottom also tend to stay at one spot for a period of time rather than just a few seconds. If the fish are set up in a rip particularly, they may feed an entire tide at that location before moving on.

The first step in locating weaks and blues quite obviously is to look for the birdies. At the very least, birds picking on the water's surface will mean that there is some bait. Usually there will be feeding fish under the bait, but not all the time. Some of the densest schools of weaks were found closer to shore; while "sand" porgies are the If you get on birds that have fish breaking under them, then you're in business. In many cases, the fish breaking on top will be small or medium sized blues working the heck out of the sand eels. Underneath the working bluefish will be the weakfish, close to the bottom. They are like the striped bass in this respect: they let the frisky bluefish do all the work on the surface and they hang out feeding a little more leisurely near the bottom. Of course, weaks will come to the surface to feed, especially around dawn and dusk.

If there are no birds working, then you're going to have to use the depth recorder to help you out a bit. The weaks will show up very clearly when they are schooled up. Watching what other boats are doing is also another way of seeing what's going on. When you're totally in doubt as to where the fish are, you might have to let the wire go and use umbrellas as a means of locating the fish. This is known as the troll and jig technique, and while it is a lot of work, it is very effective for pinning down the fish when they are scattered or moving on bait very quickly.

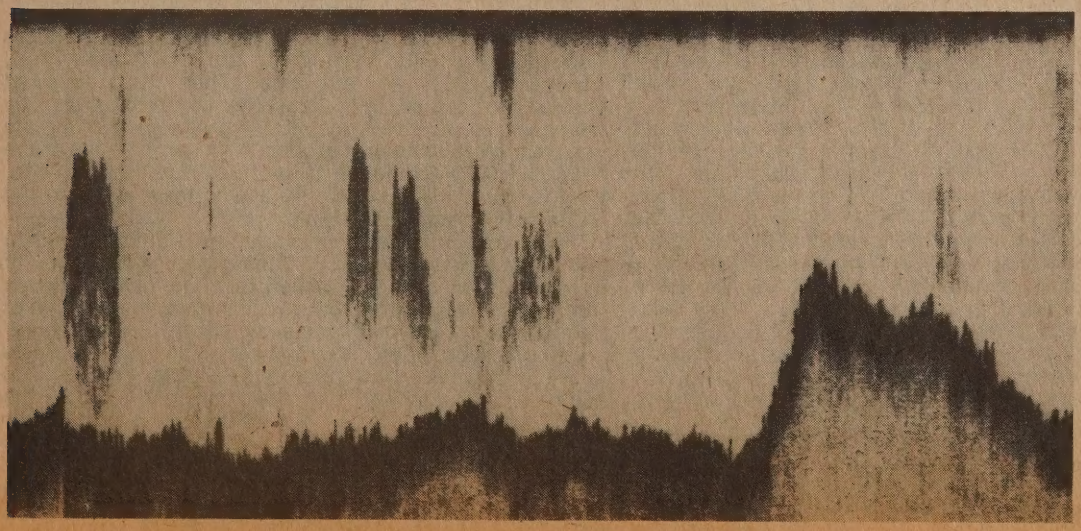
When you get to an area where the fish are scattered, you set out an umbrella rig on wire line to the prescribed depth. While you are trolling, keep a couple of jigging sticks at the ready. When you hook up on the umbrella rigs, after you reel the fish near the boat, get the jigging sticks and the jigs going. What happens a lot of times is that other weaks will follow the hooked fish and you have a shot at these fish, and also, you will be approaching a pod of fish. After you've jigged and drifted for a length of time, you go back to trolling and repeat the process again until a new hook-up occurs. This technique is very effective and helps you get fish that you might not otherwise find if you go strictly with the jigs. The umbrella rig is used strictly as a fish finding tool.

By far and away, the most enjoyable way to bag both the weaks or the blues is with the use of the diamond jig or related lure. By related lure, I mean anything that resembles a sand eel. These include the Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs and banana split lures with the tube stinger. One of the most important things with jigging is to match the size of the sand eels that the fish are feeding on. It is a little difficult to do until you catch the first fish. Blues and weaks have a tendency to regurgitate their stomach contents when they are hooked. All you have to do is look over the side after they discharge their stomach contents and see the size of the sand eels. More often than not, the sand eels will be on the small size, generally from two to four inches in length. When the bait is this size, then it pays to use the smaller size lures, rather than the big heavy clunkers. Around the Block Island area where the sand eels are on the bigger side, you would use lure size accordingly. Always start out with the smaller size lure and work it from there. The water is not usually that deep, so a three ounce jig will be a good bet to start off with.

Once you've got yourself set up over some fish (always start your drift well up-tide or up-wind of your intended spot, especially if it is a school of fish working on top) you start your squidding. This calls for the lowering of the jig all the way to the bottom, and a steady retrieve back to the boat covering all levels of water depth. More often than not, if a hit is felt within the first few cranks of the reel it will be weakfish; while the higher off the bottom you are, the more likely it will be a blue. When the blues and weaks are mixed in the same general schools, the weaks will go for a lure that is retrieved a little more slowly than normal. Blues, on the other hand, favor a jig that is being cranked through the water at a pretty fast clip. Unless the blues are big and mean and eating every other jig off your line, you should not use a wire leader. When the water is clear, the fish will shy off a jig with a wire leader like the plague. Even when the blues are heavy, they will shy off a jig that has a wire leader. If anything, go to a short length of forty or fifty pound mono leader.

Sometimes when the fish are on the finicky side, it might be wise to add a small tube lure a foot or so ahead of the jig. This is not to increase the size of your catch, since any double-header you hook up will probably tear free from one of the lures as the fish pull against each other, but to give the weaks a choice when they are shying away from the jig. All you do is make a loop in the line about eighteen inches ahead of the jig, and attach a small red, green, or white tube lure. This can be a very effective combination at times, and any double-headers that you land will be a bonus.

Although it may be very difficult to do at times, your best action will take place away from the fleet. All the commotion of wire being dragged through the water, and fish being yanked, and jigs flying, will tend to break up concentrations of fish. Whenever possible, look for birds away from the mainstream. Also, try to start your day as early as possible. In these hot, humid days, the fish are far more active the first hour after sunrise than they are for the remainder of the day. The fish will also go on a heavy feed about an hour before sunset as well. Boat traffic is at its lightest point at this time. This year out at Montauk, the weaks and blues have been most consistent east of Outer Shagwong and around the North Rips. At times, the Sub Buoy and Midway Buoy will also have the fish. No matter where you fish, though, it's time you mine the gold and silver of Montauk.



**Dense schools of weaks shown at mid-level water depth and near bottom.**

# Panfishing In BROOKLYN

## by Sal Terranova

The better part of summer marks the time of the year when the waters along the Brooklyn shore line teem with legions of sand porgies, snappers—and some years, lafayettes. The little scrappers can be found almost everywhere, except in the proverbial kitchen sink. And they are almost as easy to catch as they are to find—qualities which make them ideal for introducing children to fishing.

Some of my fondest childhood memories revolve around this trio of scrappers. I can vividly recall many joyous days spent scampering about the rocks and old bulkheads that dot the Brooklyn shore line, $5.95 spinning outfit in hand, in pursuit of the scrappy snapper and pugnacious porgy. I dare say that many fine anglers embarked upon their piscatorial careers with a bamboo pole in hand, dangling a spearing off some old pier in hope of enticing a snapper to his doom.

Apart from putting many youngsters on the primrose path to fishing's greater glories, this type of angling is hard to beat as far as simplicity in both tackle and technique goes. In this era of rapidly rising inflation, where else can you entertain up to five youngsters for an afternoon for less than ten dollars? Yes, less than ten dollars! Assuming every member of your troop is the proud owner of an inexpensive spinning outfit, ten bucks should easily cover the cost of a dozen skimmer clams, a package or two of spearing, and enough hooks, sinkers and floats for all. Why, you should even be able to buy some ice cream later. Well, that may be stretching the truth a bit, but nonetheless, you get the point.

Taking into consideration the fresh air and sunshine you and your children will get, not to mention their introduction to one of the better pastimes around, you have a combination that's hard to beat. Besides, your own kids may even develop a healthy curiosity as to the how's and why's of the sea and the myriad amount of interesting creatures that make their homes in it. Hopefully, exposure to this element via fishing early in life will instill in your children a deep love and respect for all the Lord's creatures. I believe this will ensure their growing up into adults who do not take our natural resources for granted, but who instead appreciate them and fulfill their obligations as citizens of the planet earth to see that our environment is protected both from those who would commit any act of ecological rape for the sake of the almighty dollar and those just too plain lazy and shortsighted to care about the earth, sea and sky which sustain us all. In my mind, it is your responsibility as an adult to see that these values are learned well. Teach your children to respect the life of any creature, big or small, that they may catch, and instruct them to keep only those fish that will be eaten. There is no folly greater in my mind than ending the life of any creature solely to satisfy the ego's urge to impress one's peers. Anyone worth impressing will not be impressed. If, through angling, you can instill these values in your children (and you can with proper guidance), you will have accomplished something far more valuable than saving a few bucks or spending a pleasant afternoon by the water.

All right, now that the sermon is over, let's take a look at some of the characteristics that our scrappy trio possess. Who hasn't heard of porgies? Porgies are hard-fighting bottom feeders who usually travel in large schools. Although porgies can hit the four pound mark, the ones you'll encounter along the Brooklyn shore are "sand porgies" which average a quarter of a pound in weight, with one topping half a pound being considered a monster. Sand porgies are the same species (Stentonomous chrysops) as "humpback," "sea" or "bay" porgies, with these appellations only serving as size and area distinctions. "Humpback" and "sea" porgies are large fish in the one-and-a-half to three pound range, which usually frequent offshore grounds. "Bay" porgies are fish in the one-half to one-and-a-half pound category and are found under just a couple of gulls or terns picking away. younger fish which are found right along the shore line.

Porgies, big and small, feed primarily on invertebrate marine organisms. Clams, crabs, mussels and worms comprise the major portion of their diet. Smaller porgies tend to congregate over hard-packed sand bottoms (hence the name), and mussel beds, while the larger "sea" porgies are often found in the vicinity of wrecks and rugged bottoms—both types of bottom often referred to as a "piece" by veteran anglers.

Lafayettes, as they are known hereabouts, belong to the croaker family of fish. This family numbers amongst its ranks several game fish of renown, particularly in southern and Gulf waters. The black drum and the mighty channel bass, the red drum, as well as our own weakfish belong to this group.

Lafayettes are a mystery to me; one year the species floods local waters, while the next year you won't see hide nor hair (or scale?) of even one of the critters. I've been fishing along the Brooklyn shore line since the halcyon days of my childhood back in the early 1960; but prior to 1973, I had never seen a lafayette. I do recall hearing stories from old-timers who said the fish was similar to porgy in habits, appearance and methods used to catch them. The old-timers also said that when the fish were around, they were present in enormous quantities. However, they said none had been present in city waters since the early 1940s. Well, along came 1973 and with it, copious amounts of lafayettes. Then 1974 followed naturally, of course, with lafayettes conspicious only by their absence. And so it goes. One year, no lafayettes; the next year more lafayettes around than herring gulls at the New York City Sanitation Department Garbage fill site. Why is this so? I guess we'll have to leave it up to the marine biologists for an answer.

The Lafayette (Leiostomis xanthurus to icthyologists) is commonly known as "spot" along the major portion of its range down south. Theoretically, its range extends from Cape Cod to Texas, but the fish is not found north of Delaware with any predictable regularity. It is a regular summer inhabitant of inshore waters from Virginia down to the Gulf, where it is an extremely popular panfish. The name "spot" is derived from the black spot found on the "shoulder" of the fish, just rear of the gill covering, near its lateral line. The fish is only known as "lafayette" in northern New Jersey and Long Island waters. The story goes that this moniker was bestowed upon the creature in 1924, when one of their periodic invasions of New York

City waters happened to coincide with a visit made to New York by the Revolutionary war hero, the Marquis de Lafayette. To honor this patriot, the fish was named after him—so legend has it.

The lafayette possesses a body form that is roughly oval, laterally compressed and rather high-backed, although these features are not as prominent in the lafayette as they are in the porgy. Imagine a kingfish (also a member of the croaker clan) with a shorter, stumpier body: fatter and with a higher back, and you'll have a pretty good idea of what a lafayette looks like.

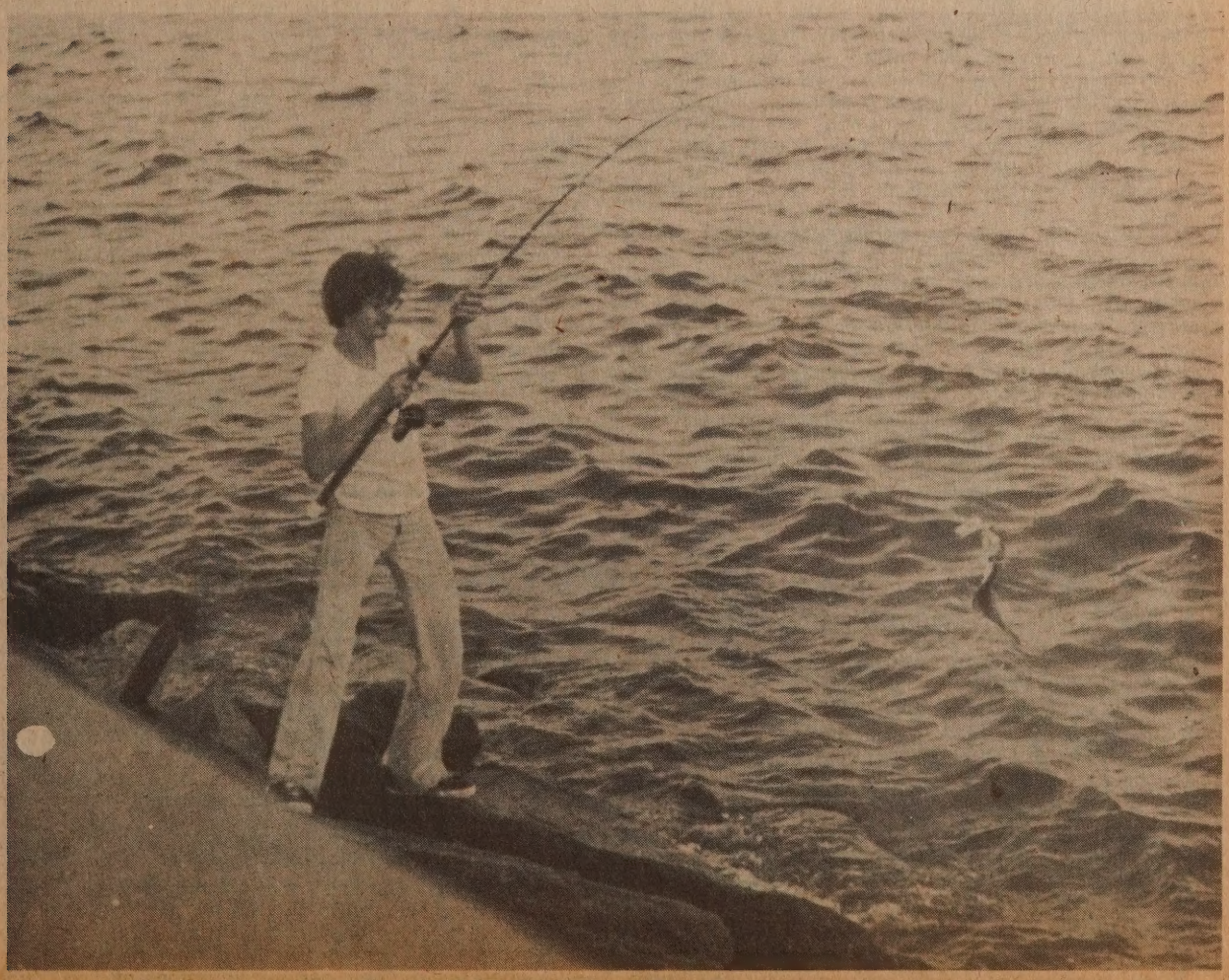
The coloration of a lafayette is a different matter. The fish is greyish-silver on the sides, with an iridescent blueish-purple back. The aforementioned black spot on the gill complements a set of narrow, dark bars running vertically down the back at a slight forward angle which ends just below the lateral line. The intensity of coloration of the bars may vary from faint to quite dark in any individual specimen. Indeed, the lafayette is quite a pretty little fellow. The mouth is small, similar to a porgy's mouth, which is something to bear in mind when selecting hooks for them.

The lafayette's diet pretty much matches that of its fellow co-traveler—the sand porgy. Items of importance on the lafayette's menu include worms, mussels, clams, and small crustaceans. Size-wise, the lafayette is a real midget. Down south, specimens in the one-and-a-half pound range are on record, although the average fish will weigh in at under one pound. Along the Brooklyn shore line, I've yet to catch or even see one surpassing the half pound mark. Most fish you will encounter in our area will average about a quarter pound. Lafayettes prefer the same hard-packed sand bottoms that sand porgies love to call home. As is plainly obvious, both species share similar habits and growth, which accounts for their being caught in the same locales, employing the same angling techniques.

Fortunately, the size of the quarry and their nature allows for the use of simple, inexpensive rod and reel combinations which are ideal for the youngsters to use. Any light spinning rod measuring 5½' to 6½' matched with a balancing, inexpensive spinning reel will do. The reel should be a lightweight model, capable of holding one hundred yards or more of six to ten pound test line. You will not need all that line to catch these critters; however, a reel filled to full line capacity will ensure that maximum casting distance is deliverable and facilitates the process in general. You can use light conventional gear, but I would not recommend its use by children, as efficient casting with this gear is considerably more difficult than it is with spinning tackle. The ease with which even a child of six can cast with spinning gear makes it a hands-down choice. Such tackle will also yield the most "fight" from what are scrappy, but very small fish.

There is one basic rig that will account for both lafayettes and porgies. The rig is similar in design to most bottom-fishing rigs and simple to put together. Via a perfection loop or double overhand loop, attach a one or two ounce sinker to the end of your line. The loop will facilitate the removal of the sinker, rendering knots unnecessary if you want to change the amount of weight on your line to compensate for changing tidal conditions. To attach your line to the sinker, pinch the loop with your thumb and index finger so that it's slim enough to pass through the eye of the sinker. Pull the loop through the eye, slip it over the fat end of the weight, and tighten it by yanking on the line. You won't lose the sinker in the water,

*(Continued on next page.)*



**Fluke are occasionally mixed in with the catch as demonstrated by this lucky angler.**

but you can easily remove it by loosening the tension and slipping it off the loop.

To complete the rig, tie a dropper loop or a double-overhand loop a couple of inches above the sinker loop. Attach a #8 or #10 Eagle Claw Bait Holder Hook (the kind with the two barbs along the shank) to the knot. The hooks should have an eight to ten inch snell. Pass the end loop of the snell through the loop knot on your line. Pull the snell halfway through the loop on the main line, then take the snell and double back, passing the snell loop over the hook itself. Secure the whole rigamarole by pulling in the hook to tighten the connection.

If you wish, you can use two hooks, the second one attached to the snell of the first. This is easily accomplished by passing the snell loop of the second hook over the first hook, placing the loop at a point midway along the snell of the first hook. Fasten the juncture by tying two double overhand knots with the snell of the first hook, which will naturally form a knot that will hold the second hook in place. I hope these instructions serve to aid you rather than confuse you. Actually, these procedures are a lot more simple than they sound. Once you get the knack of tying rigs, it will become second nature to you.

Sand worms and skimmer clams are the most desirable baits to use for sand porgies and lafayettes. Sand worms are the preferred bait along the Brooklyn shore line, with skimmer clams running a close second. However, the cost of sand worms makes the use of clams more practical, as you'll get a lot more individual pieces of bait for your money with the clams. After cutting a one inch long piece of worm, run the hook through the bait lengthwise, about three-quarters of an inch and then allow the point to emerge. Leave a quarter-inch piece of worm dangling off the hook to tease the fish. The bait holder feature of the Eagle Claw comes in handy here, keeping the bait from sliding down the shank. Prepare the clams by removing the harder part, known as the "foot" from the shell and slicing it in half horizontally. You now have two palm-size chunks of clam which you will slice again lengthwise into quarter-inch wide strips that will yield you about a dozen one to two inch long strips. Impale them lengthwise on your hook by running the point through them two or three times and be sure to leave a bit of bait trailing off the hook. Small pieces of squid and bloodworms can also account for sand porgies and lafayettes at times.

Fishing for these two panfish is basically simple, old-fashioned still fishing; that is, cast out, let the bait sit on the bottom, and wait for a bite. Of course, if you are fishing off a pier that puts you over fairly deep water, you can just drop your rig to the bottom. However, in the long run it pays to cast out as far as possible. In this manner, you'll cover a lot more ground. Always cover as much of an area as possible by casting to your right and left, fanning out your probes in a semi-circular pattern. This strategy is especially necessary when fishing from shore itself. Reel in your line a couple of feet every few minutes or so, until you have retrieve the line back to you if no action is forthcoming. This will assure that you've covered the maximum amount of bottom in any given spot. Keeping children in mind, if your progeny do not possess the ability to cast, by all means restrict your efforts to a pier where casting is not essential.

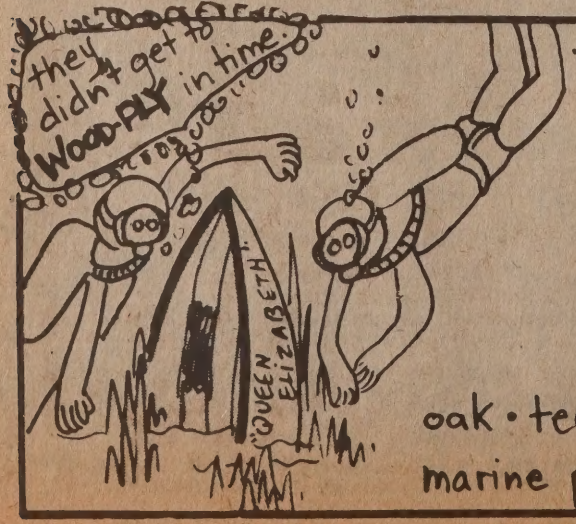
Sand porgies and lafayettes bite pretty much in the same manner. They peck rapidly at a bait and should be hit as soon as the strike is telegraphed up your line. Under certain circumstances, the fish may nibble, gently inhale the bait or otherwise play games which will call for changing tactics. These shenanigans are best handled by hesitating a bit before setting the hook. These departures from their normal way of feeding are usually manifested when the fish are on the scarce side and food is plentiful. In this situation, the critters can afford to play games. Rest assured that when the fish are plentiful as they usually are, the increased competition for available food will quickly put an end to picky feeding habits. As lafayettes have slightly smaller mouths than porgies, it may be wise to stick to the smaller #10 hook if they predominate in the catch. If porgies are prevalent, the #8 hooks will do fine.

Although the fight these fish will give you is not likely to cause your heart to throb with excitement, on the light tackle they will put up enough of a scrap to provide thrills for the children. Along the Brooklyn shore line, the most favorable time to fish as far as tides go is "around" the high tide. The last two or three hours of the incoming through the high slack, where the action may pipe down a little, into the first two or three hours of the outgoing tide will provide the best action. In this area, fishing for these scrappers at any other stages of the tide (around the low) is a waste of time; so always check the tide tables for the time of the high tide and plan your trip accordingly.

Don't fish this area if there is a southeast wind blowing. This wind will come off the water, blowing in your face and otherwise making life difficult. Mild westerly breezes are preferable, although winds from any quarter other than southeast are acceptable, providing they're not blowing at gale force.

Sand porgies and lafayettes make their presence known to anglers sometime in late July along the Brooklyn shore line. At this time, they tend to be very tiny and not quite as abundant. In August, they increase both in size and numbers, with the run building to a peak in late August through September, with the latter month providing the best angling. The fish will stick around into early October, perhaps even until the middle of that month, depending on when the first frost shows on the pumpkin. However, from late September on, their numbers will steadily decrease day by day, although one consolation is that you're more likely to hook into the largest specimens at this time.

In Part Two of this article, which will follow next week, we'll take a look at the snapper fishing in Brooklyn, plus mention certain areas in Brooklyn where you can fish for all three species.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# MONTAUK
## ★ BEST BET ★
## COD

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** informs us that porgy fishing has been good with mixed fish up to 2 lbs. High hooks have been running in the 70s and 80s with catches averaging 25 to 40 porgies a man. A few blacks, sea bass and fluke have been mixed in with the boat working the Point and Shagwong. The fluking has improved again and the **Marlin V** will be half-day fluking until this Friday. Starting Sunday, Sept. 7th, the boat will be sailing all day for bluefish, sailing at 7 a.m. See ad for details. Night bluefish trips have been red hot to the tune of 500 to 800 choppers per trip. These Cartwright alligators are going 10 to 18 lbs. Saturday's day charter saw a 25 man group boat 400 big bluefish.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** says that fishing at Washington Shoals and Shagwong Reef has produced excellent catches of porgies. Bud said that on Friday 4 anglers went over the 100 porgy mark. Saturday being better than Sunday, saw 2 anglers going over the 100 mark. Porgy catches in the 40s to 80s were common, fish mediums to medium-big. Bud recommends that for best catches you bring sand worms with you. They seem to be the best bait.

Capt. Zac of the charterboat **Mako Express** called to say that Saturday's trip for Gino Brilli resulted in a catch of 4 makos from 15 to 45 lbs. all taken

**Forty weaks and 10 fluke for Dr. Benn and his two sons, Michael and Dave. The catch was made at Montauk aboard John DeMaio's "Vivienne."**


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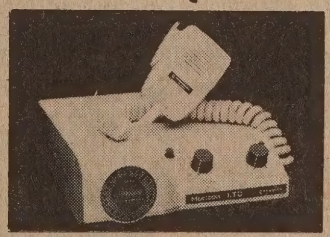

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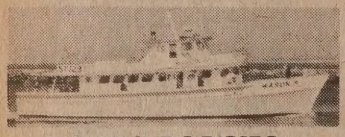

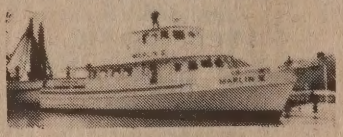

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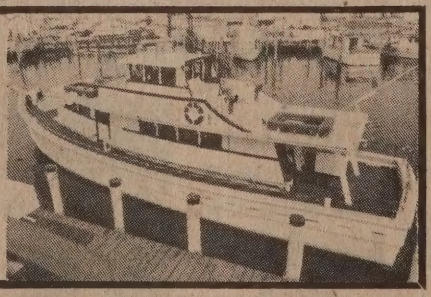

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on the east side of the Butterfish Hole. They also had a couple of blue shark on the large side. Sunday also saw a group tagging and releasing several large blue shark.

Capt Joe McBride of the charterboat **My Mate** says the inshore fishing is very active around Block Island provided you wait out the tide. Offshore activity has leveled off with numbers of large blue shark being taken.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** says that inshore and offshore fishing still remains very good with bigger blue shark being tagged and released. A charter for Mr. Tunick of Long Beach saw him bag an 80 lb. mako. Still lots of giant tuna being seen but they're not really on the feed yet. On the weekend they had a pick-up which stripped a 14/0 and broke off due to the lightness of the leader.

Charterboat **Windy** skipper Jack Passie, called to say that he had the best striped bass week of the year so far this past week with the moon. Great bass fishing said Jack. On Wednesday night he had 25 bass averaging out at 30 lbs. on live eels. Other nights he had 6 to 11 stripers. Largest fish weighed in at 42 lbs. A 58 lb. 8 oz. striper was caught as were 3 others in the 50s. Thursday night was a mob scene however and little fishing could be done. Best action had been a little east of Great Eastern. Saturday's bluefish charter saw 3 men take 137 blues from 7 to 14 lbs. fishing in 50' of water 5½ miles south of Block Island.

Charterboat **Christina** called to report that Monday's charter for Potter's Pub of East Meadow saw Dennis Banks take a 80 lb. mako, Ken Kinberg boat a 50 lb. mako, Jack Kustek hook and land a 100 lb. blue shark and not to be outdone, Joe Burkland decked a 63 lb. white marlin. This was in 200' of water 165 degrees from The Point.

Henry Colombi at **Star Island Yacht Club** informs us that the boat Yesterday caught a 245 lb. bigeye tuna and also some yellowfin tuna on a canyon overnighter. Other boats out there also had yellowfin tuna plus albacore and scattered catches of

**Donell Jones, Jerry McKoy, Eddie Dunlap, Willie Walters and Earl Garner with 900 lbs. of blues and mackerel taken south of Block Island aboard the charter boat "Windy."**


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bigeyes. The boat Sta-Dor had a 928 lb. tuna and 245 lb. sword. Jerry Greenberg did all this at the canyon and the Mud Hole. The Friendship bagged 25 fluke to 3 lbs. on the south side. Bluefishing is excellent at Cartwright with herring on the hook. Blues are also being trolled and jigged at the Sub buoy and at the Elbow.

Capt Henry Harris of the charterboat **Snap Shot V** called to say that last Sunday a 320 lb. swordfish was caught by Dermott Williamson of Northport. Dermott is from Entenmann's Bakery. The trip was set up by Joe Kwaitkoski. The boat fished 18 miles south of The Point in 220' of water. The tagged and released 6 blue shark and also boated a 10 lb mini-mako. The sword was taken on 50 lb. test Ande and the battle took 1 hr. 55 min. with the fish providing 6 spectacular leaps. The fish was weighed in at **Star Island Yacht Club**. The head is being mounted, as is the 10 lb. mako.

Captain Mike Albronda of the charter boat **Montauk** reported an upturn in the shark fishing with a lot of big blue sharks making up the catches, as well as a few nice makos. Several charters last week had up to 15 sharks apiece. Ralph Fasano had a 299 lb. blue shark. Good fishing for yellowfin tuna at the 40 fathom line and on the inshore scene, a few big weaks at the Sub Buoy and solid fishing now at Cartwright on jigs and bait.

The **Viking Fleet** reports that the cod fishing remains excellent all this past week. The night bluefishing has been a slaughter on jumbo Montauk bluefish. The porgy fishing has been good to very good, best on weekdays when there is less boat traffic. The fluking has been hanging in there in the rips with some good size fish being taken.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

## SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** said that the bay has been producing small blackfish and flounder for the sinker bouncers. Fluking has been only fair and snappers are super abundant all over. Plenty of small blues for trollers just outside the inlet. In Peconic Bay, some good weakfishing at Rose's Grove and also at buoy 2 in Flanders Bay. Porgies taking clams and worms at buoy 35 and the South Race. In Gardiner's Bay, some nice blackfish for those who give it a try. Ed Kistner and Joe Marzalek return-

ed with a catch of tautogs up to 7¼ lbs. and 40 porgies which they took off of Eastern Plains Point on skimmers and green crabs.

Lou Normoile, Jr. fished aboard his dad's boat last Wednesday, southeast of Shinnecock Inlet in 225' of water and put away his first mako shark, a fish of 105 lbs. En route back to the Inlet, the anglers came across a white marlin just 1½ miles from the beach.

The **Captain Clark II** reports good porgy fishing in Peconic Bay. On Thursday Jennie and Tom Hester of Mt. Vernon had 187 porgies. Friday, saw Ed Barht and Dad with 190 porgies and 8 blackfish from 4 to 6 lbs. Sunday Franklin Stokes and Bill Mills had 139 porgies and took the pool with an 8 lb. blackfish. Large snappers are everywhere in Peconic and offer good action along with porgies and blacks. The **Captain Clark** will be making ocean wreck for sea bass this coming weekend, Sept. 6th.

## HAMPTON BAYS

**Altenkirch Bait and Tackle** said that Captain Dave Larsen of the **Jenny III** returned from the Canyon Sunday with a small swordfish. Small blues all over the place just outside the Inlet for those trolling umbrella rigs and an occasional nice catch of fluke made by those who put in the time. Captain Joey Disegni of the **Wanderer** put away 16 of the flatfish in just a couple of hours fishing near the inlet.

## MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** said that flounder are still providing good action at buoy 41. Catches of 30 to 40 keepers are fairly common on worm bait and dyed skimmers. Fluke fishing has not been very steady although there are some nice fish around. All the snappers you want and good sized ones at that. Crabbing is decent according to Bill. Blues in the 3-4 lb. class being trolled in the inlet and just outside on umbrella rigs. Bigger fish south of the inlet in 60' to 80' of water, while boats running to the Patchogue Grounds load up with 6 to 15 lb. choppers on jigs. For the offshore set, a 737 lb. tiger shark was taken Wednesday in 190' of water by John Frame aboard Joe Duggan's 20' Seacraft. Stan Saneski rounded out the crew. Lots of small makos from 140' to 200' of water, according to Bill with a few white marlin in the 110' to 120' range. An occasional bluefin tuna anywhere from 120' to 140'.

Al told us from his **Hi-Way Fishing Station** that customers have been picking away at a mixed bag of fluke, flounder, blacks and snappers. East winds have hurt the fishing somewhat in recent days, but the picture should change shortly. On Sunday, one boat returned with 40 nice keeper flounder taken on worms near buoy 41. Fluke fishing has been erratic, with one day last week producing a lot of nice sized fish up to 6½ lbs. and the next day's


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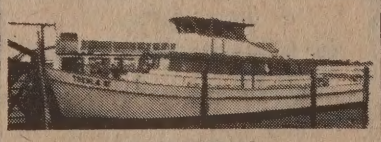
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These fluke from 4½ to 7¾ lbs. were part of a catch of 20 keepers made by Mike Baxter and Larry Marimo at buoy 29. Photo courtesy of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station.

fishing resulting in only small fish. Best bet for fluke has been at the Elbow, and buoys 36, 38, and 40.

Chet at **B&B Tackle** says that in his area snappers are super-duper on small shiners and small tins. Good crabbing in the west end of the Bay. Flounders are in generally very good at buoy 36 on worms, averaging a pound. Fluke at the West Cut on spearing, squid and killies. Fish are mostly keepers with an occasional 4 to 5 lb. fish. A couple of occasional stripers and weaks being taken by bluefish trollers using umbrellas. Lots of cocktail blues along the beach and in the bay. Chip Contegni on his boat Mis-Behave, fished the canyon and boated a 35 lb. white marlin, 3 bigeye tuna, all over 100 lbs., 4 yellowfin tuna and some longfin albies. On Bob Gustavsen's Intruder a 310 lb. mako was taken Friday in 120' of water SE of Moriches Inlet.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

## MASTIC BEACH

**Stritz's Fishing Station** says that everything seems to be running now with even small sea bass being caught in quantity. Tremendous quantities of snappers are all over the place at around 10''. Crabbing has been fair but Sept. and Oct. are peak months. There's a big run of small blues. Bonito and small weakfish all from 3 to 5 lbs. on the outside with very good catches on Sunday. Friday saw several boats with 3 to 4 fluke in the 4 lb. range. All this action has been from buoy 17 to the Bridge. Catches

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***COME ON DOWN!***
**You'll have a great day!**

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**FLUKE 7AM & 2PM**

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**BLUES 7PM**

**7A.M.** MORNING TRIP **2P.M.** ½ DAY TRIP
ALL BAIT & TACKLE FREE
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FAMILIES WELCOME
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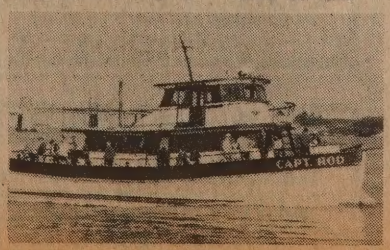
## CAPT. ROD

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of 10 to 20 blowfish per rental skiff have been common all week.

## SAYVILLE

Bob Lee of **Young's Fishing Station** spoke of excellent weakfishing along the Fire Island shore from Barrett Beach to Fire Island Pines. Some anglers have found good fishing in depths as shallow as 3'. Squid strips and worms have been accounting for most of the weaks which run from 2 to 4 lbs., although an occasional tiderunner butts in on the action. Best fluking is now concentrated near the inlet as the fish prepare to move offshore in the weeks ahead. Crabbing remains good and snapper fishing is best near the mouth of Browns River. Pete Bilella and Ken Bedrossin and his brother Ron returned to the station with 60 weaks and 2 fluke, which they took while drifting between the Pines and Barrett Beach. Wilson, Ed and Willie Hernandez, and Jesus Lozada had a catch of 15 weaks and some snapper blues. They fished about a mile south of the Browns River jetties.

## WEST SAYVILLE

Jim of **South Bay Fishing Station** used the words real good to describe the weakfish action in the Tanker Channel off of Cherry Grove and around the commercial clam dredges. Most fish are in the 2-4 lb. class and rentals have been averaging 20-25 weaks per boat in addition to some small blues mixed in. Another bonus this past week has been some real nice size kingfish taken on the same squid strips meant for weaks. Good crabbing and snapper fishing continues at the West Sayville dock. Irv Schwartzman and Gene Basovitch totaled 35 weaks on Friday, while Tim Carberry single-handedly put away 20 weaks and 6 kingfish on Saturday.

## OAKDALE

Rod of **J & R Sport Shop** said that Dan Barrett and Mario Agricola both of Brentwood, journeyed over to Port Jeff one day last week to sample the bluefishing at buoy 11. Using Pasquale jigs, the pair put away 40 choppers in the 3-5 lb. class. Great South Bay weakfish continue to accommodate boatmen in the Sayville to Oakdale area. Peter Mastronardo of East Islip and Mike Swenson had 39 weaks in the 2-3 lb. range fishing south of Browns River aboard the Sea Swallow. They used squid strips on hi-lo rigs. Lots of crabs and snappers keeping the kids busy in the Conetquot River and all the local docks. John Schauer aboard his Joannie Gal put away 6 tiderunner weaks up to 10¾ lbs. drifting live snappers between the light and the Coast Guard Station Saturday AM. After dark, live eels work best on these fish.

## BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported a 7½ lb. fluke taken by Gene

Kelly at the inlet on Thursday. Best fluking is now from the bridge to the inlet on squid and sand eel combos. Umbrella rig trollers and jiggers continue to take 2-4 lb. blues at the light and down at the inlet. On Sunday, the boat An How had 30 fluke up to 5 lbs. on squid and sand eels. On Saturday, the same boat had 30 sea bass, 2 weaks and 2 bluefish at buoy 13. Carl called the snapper fishing very good and added that he has plenty of fresh spearing to accommodate snapper fans. He described the crabbing as decent. Outside of the inlet, bluefish continue to provide excellent action on the Patchogue grounds and a few bonito and albacore are now mixing in with the choppers. Split tail jigs have been taking most of the fish during the daytime. Mike Soehrada weighed in an 11 lb. blue from a catch of 24 blues and 1 weak made at Patchogue. The Bay Shore Tuna Club will be holding its annual Snapper Derby on Saturday at the Bay Shore Marina foot of South Clinton Avenue.

The **Casey Lee** reports fluke has been from fair to good this past week. Thursday and Saturday were good days. The new leader in the Free Fishing for Life Contest aboard the boat, is Hauppauge angler Gene Kelly with his 7 lb. 12 oz. fluke which he caught Thursday. Best fishing has been from the Inlet up to Sexton Island on killies, sand eel, spearing and squid.

## CAPTREE

Capt Neil of the charterboat **Lady Ann** says that his bluefish charters have been from excellent to a slaughter both days and nights. Best trip of the week was Saturday night with over 400 big blues at the Patchogue grounds. This was all bait fishing with jigs religated to the day trips. Fish were mostly 6 to 8 pounders with the pool fish hitting 17 lbs. The boat's fluke charters have ranged from fair to good depending on wind and tide conditions, all the action from the mouth of the inlet to the Lighthouse. The skipper says that he has some October weekend dates available for this super bluefishing at offseason rates.

Capt Roy of the charterboat **Blue Albatross II** called to say that Saturday's fluke charter scored with excellent results. Tom Dickens and party from Remington Aluminum had 26 people bagging up with 150 keeper fluke. This was at the Inlet and fish ran up to 3 lbs. Lots of midgets were caught also but were ofcourse returned to the water to grow up. Saturday night's bluefish charter was a leap job fishing just short of Patchogue in the area of the San Diego wreck. This trip was for Rich Russo and party of Bay Shore. Sunday's trip for the East Islip Fire Dept. Engine Co. 2 had a good time out even though the catch was on the light side due to the strong gusty wind conditions that prevailed that day.

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Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** tells of continued excellent day and night bluefishing. A steady passenger who has been on vacation these last couple of weeks must be seeing bluefish in his sleep. On Wednesday Bill Plum had between 90 and 100 bluefish for that single trip alone. He's been fishing basically everyday for the last couple of weeks and has had 40 to 50 fish a day other than that stupendous day. These fish are from 4 to 10 lbs. and the skipper is working the Patchogue area with jigs during the day and bait at night. Nights is seeing super fishing all on the bottom. Sunday's strong winds caused too fast drifting conditions and made the catch a little lighter for that day trip.

Capt Ron Peters of the charterboat **Yankee III** tells us that Friday night's trip with Capt. Harry Dawkins at the wheel had over 200 bluefish for the NY Telephone Co. Fluke charters during the week have had good results with most fishing being done in the Inlet.

The **Captree Queen II** reports that their nightly bluefishing trips which have all centered on the Patchogue grounds, have been very good all week with fish dead on the bottom on sinker rigs. It's like shooting fish in a barrel, so to speak. Fish are running generally from 6 to 13 lbs. Fluking remains good from the mouth of the inlet east to buoy 20. Fish are running mixed sizes up to 2½ lbs. on squid, sand eels and spearing. Best action has been on the incoming tide.

Your reporter and Capt Roy Mazziotta took a busman's holiday Tuesday night aboard the **Capt. Bob Joseph** and enjoyed a complete slaughter on bluefish off Patchogue. Running the night trip was Capt Mitch Melnick. It was just a matter of litterally all the fish you wanted, running from 6 to 12 lbs.

Captain Joe of the open boat **Jib VI** has been doing a good job with the fluke fishing the inlet area with killies, sand eels and squid. Some nice sized fish are mixed in with each day's catch. Best action has been on the incoming tide. Captain Marty on the spanking new **Jib VII** has been doing a great job on the blues all week. Both day and night action has been top-notch with fish running any where from 5-16 lbs. Jigs work best in the daytime while bait takes the fish at night. The hot area is in from 80' to 100' of water south of Patchogue.

Captain Jim Gillen of the open boat **Capt. Gillen** reported pretty fair fluking in recent days. Fishing is being done from the lighthouse to the bridge and on down to the inlet. Most of the fish are nice sized with an occasional flatfish in the 4 and 5 lb. range. On Saturday's AM trip, a Mr. Rosen took the pool with a fish just a shade under 5 lbs. Killlies and fluke belly combos on a flood tide has been the best combination.

Noel at the **Captree Bait Station** reported plenty of snappers being taken by the pier fishermen. He said

that fluke boats have been doing well fishing near the mouth of the inlet and that the head boats on the bluefish run have been doing a real job on the fish at the Patchogue Outer Banks.

## BABYLON

Keith reported from **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** that boatmen have been doing well with the fluke near the Coast Guard Station and near the mouth of Snake Hill Channel on spearing and squid combos. Loads of small blues near the inlet for trollers and jiggers with an occasional weak mixed in. Real good snapper fishing locally and one boat from the station returned with a bushel of nice crabs from the flats bordering the Babylon Cut.

Artie, one of the co-owners of **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported that the Babylon Tuna Club's annual snapper derby was a huge success and that plenty of prizes were handed out to the competing youngsters. The Club fluke contest was settled this past weekend by Walter Krawczk aboard the Top Cat with a doormat of 7 lbs. 8 oz. The Babylon Tuna Club boat Blue Water established a new club record for big-eye tuna when it returned from the Canyon this weekend with a 290 lber. On Thursday of last week, Vinnie DeMartino of the 5 D's returned from the Canyon with 5 yellowfin tuna, including one of 132 lbs. Plenty of yellowfins and big-eyes out at the Canyon according to Art and bluefiin tuna in the 25 lb. class from 160' of water on out.


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FLUKE


## SEAFORD

**Capt Eddie's Fishing Station** tells us that fluke are still being taken at the Wantagh Bridge areas and at Squaw Island. These are mostly keepers. Massapequa Cove has produced a few flounders this week. Small porgies and a few decent size blowfish have also been caught in various holes. Some small blues are being caught around the bridges all around the high. A few sand porgies are also being taken.

**Lon Wanser** reported from his Tackle Shop that snappers are providing most of the action in the area. He knew that boatmen have been scoring well with weakfish drifting worms on night tides near the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges. Lon called the crabbing and fluke fishing in the area a bit on the slow side.


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## BELLMORE

**Merrick Tackle** reports that some small flounder are starting to be picked in some of the deeper holes in the bay on worm and clam. Fluking has been picky but some fish are still to be had in the channels and creeks locally. Snappers are plentiful and getting bigger.

## MERRICK

**Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that Merrick Point and Carman's Cut all around the high seem to have been the only areas producing fluke on the weekend. Best was on squid and sand eels. A few small flounder were taken on worms dead-center in Swift Creek. Striped bass live lining has been off this week with a couple of shark-shooters getting skunked. Lots of small sea bass and tiny blowfish around which is a great sign for next year. Lots of 8 to 10" snappers available. Anita Delaurenzo and Dad Joe Gecsedi of Glendale, fishing on the boat Midnight Hour, on Sunday, had a 4 lb. 15 oz. fluke. Frank Signoriello on his boat Patricia, with nephew Mark Yevoli of Denver Colorado, on the rod, hooked and landed a 53 lb. white marlin fishing 15 miles north of the Texas Tower using a jet lure.

## BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that Tom Yorkmuller bagged a 14 lb. blue and Hank Reel took a 20 lb. blue trolling umbrellas in 50' of water off the Pink Hotel. Bob Gormsen and Jim Collins bagged up with 20 fluke from 3 to 4¾ lbs. using smelts along the beach. Crabbing has been very good in Middle and Baldwin Bays. Crabs are big and quantities are good. Lots of small sea bass being caught.


**WEST END SOUTH SHORE**
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES


## FREEPORT

Capt Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that his boats sailing day and night bluefish trips this past week have been knocking the socks off the bluefish fishing SE of Jone's Inlet with fish up to 16 lbs. The night boat has been coming in early on a steady basis and the catches are excellent with the day trips almost as good. Daytime it's jigging and nighttime it's bait fishing. On Sunday they fished in the area of the San Diego wreck which is 40 minutes short of the Patchogue

grounds indicating a possible movement of fish to the west. If you have hot-pants for a cod wreck fishing trip, there are still some open spots available on the **Blue Fin III** for their trip of Sept. 17th. This is strictly limited by reservation only, so call now if your hankering for codfish filets. See ad for details.

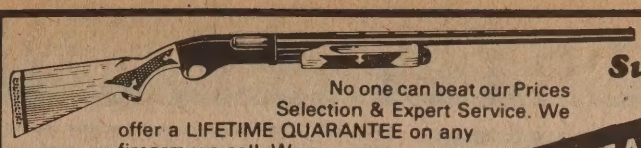
The **Capt. Al** reports that they are getting good catches of bluefish locally. Sunday's fish ran 7 to 10 lbs. taken on diamond jigs caught late in the day at Klondike. Saturday's bluefish catch was very good as was Tuesday's. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the skipper's wife classified as "Fair". This fishing was around the NB buoy. The night trips have been fair and are mainly on bait and chum.

The **Starstream II** says that although Sunday's bluefish catch was a little slow, he would still call it good fishing for the day. Sunday saw a lot of strong winds and fast drifting. George Shover of Bellmore hooked and landed (with the help of a big gaff) a 100 lb. mako on 30 lb. test line tipped with a diamond jig intended for a bluefish. The fight took no more than 10 min. said Capt. Richie Kessinger and the fish dressed out at 65 lbs. Eight to ten bluefish a man was average for Sunday. Saturday's catch was excellent from 1 p.m. on with fish 6 to 14 lbs. with a few big weaks and several bonito mixed in. Saturday night's trip was an absolute slaughter fishing not too far to the SE. Days and nights are still producing solid catches of blues.

Capt Joe Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** reports that Thursday's charter for Mat Ringinese and group had 3 bluefin tuna to 30 lbs. and 24 skippies. Friday's charter for Steve Cramer and group had an estimated 100 lb. bluefin tuna which broke off at the boat along with 32 skippies. Saturday's trip for Don Beckwith and group bagged a 30 lb. yellowfin tuna and a 20 lb. bluefin tuna plus 20 skippies. Sunday's trip for Burt Lilly and group had 3 bluefin tuna to 15 lbs. and 12 skippies. Action was SW of the HA roughly 40 miles plus off the beach.

Ronnie at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** tells of small blues being caught in the Inlet, 1 to 1¾ pounders, west to the Meadowbrook Bridge being trolled on small umbrellas or on small cast tins or bucktail around the bridge and around the Coast Guard Station. Flounder are starting to show in Swift Creek and at the Meadowbrook Bridge from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. Fluke sharpies are getting 15 to 17 good keepers a day inside the bay on just killies. Loads of snappers in the bay running 3-4 to the pound. A spearing with no shot has been working very well.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sport Center** said that trollers and jiggers take some blues just outside the inlet. There are flounder in Swift Creek and Sloop Channel on chum and worms and this fishing has been overshadowing the

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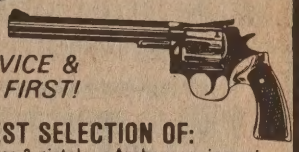

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fluking as of late. Ronnie knew that a couple of tuna were taken at The Farms aboard the open boat **Captain Al** while bluefishing.

Lou Stalker told us from **Lou's Fishing Station** that fluking has been good over at Ambrose, while a few fish are being taken locally. Pretty good flounder action in the deeper holes on worms and some small blues in the inlet and southwest of the inlet. For offshore fans, Lou reported a super catch made at the Canyon aboard Rich Koch's Libra II. Returning on Saturday, the crew which consisted of Brian Sullivan, Billy Weyant, Vince Cantone, Bill Stauffer and Curtis Page, unloaded a 239 lb. swordfish, yellowfins of 145 and 146 lbs., a 40 lb. true albacore, big-eyes of 214 and 240 and a 55 lb. bluefin tuna. On Saturday, the My-Glow, a 26' Grover built, returned with a 55 lb. wahoo which was taken 4 miles southeast of the HA buoy. Also on Saturday, Irv Silverberg aboard his Water Rat fished an offshore wreck and put away 12 cod up to 35 lbs., along with some pollack. Irv is a member of the Atlantis Anglers.

## POINT LOOKOUT

At **Scotty's Marina**, Andy Chisholm reported some tuna at the Mud Hole mixed with the choppers. Andy was more impressed with a catch of 11 dolphin made by one boat on Sunday trolling the 140' to 160' depths south of the inlet. Andy called the weakfishing slow and said some fluke continue to be picked in Reynolds Channel. Snappers and sand porgies continue to provide excellent action throughout the area.

## ISLAND PARK

From **Beckman's Tackle Shop**, Billie reported that fluke action seems to be winding down a bit, although one day during the week he drifted in front of the Cedarhurst Yacht Club and put away 14 flatties, 5 of which were keepers. Loads of snappers throughout the area and quite a few crabs around also. Some school bass to 15 lbs. being taken on worms by boatmen in the Point Lookout area. Good bluefishing at the Cholera and 17 Fathoms on both bait and jigs and a few bonito, albacore and tuna beginning to mix with the choppers.

## ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** says that the blues have thinned out a little in the NY Bight quantity wise, but are jumbos up to 18 lbs. His charters are still getting 50 to 80 choppers a day in Ronnie's striper haunts on small spoons in the NY Bight. A few weakfish are also mixed in. Ron says that he has heard of a few bass being taken on jigs under bluefish. Between the HA and the Noah buoys, some 30 lb. class tuna, have been taken. The canyon has also been producing bigeye tuna, wahoo and white marlin.

**Skippy's Bait and Tackle** reported nice fluke still being taken along the channel at Ambrose on killies. Skippy called the inshore bluefishing spotty, but added that fishing has been good at 17 Fathoms. Locally the fluking has been slow and crabbing has not been much better. George Last, Tom O'Sullivan and John Woerthel journeyed to the Canyon aboard the boat Marty's Twins and returned with 8 yellowfin tuna in the 60-70 lb. range, but also including one fish of 150 lbs.

## JAMAICA BAY

**Canarsie Sports and Tackle** says that fishing off the Canarsie Pier has been producing a few porgies but that the snappers have been from fair to good in quantities though small in size. Some keeper fluke have been taken off the pier also on squid, killies

**Four-year-old Stephan Solonchak's fishing career got off to a great start when the youngster landed this keeper fluke in Reynold's Channel.**

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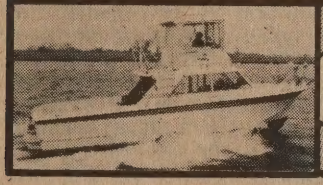

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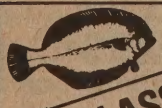

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or sand eels. Sting rays and sand shark are being caught at night. The Marine Parkway Bridge area has produced some fluke, weaks, stripers and blues on bunker strips at night, bounced along the bottom.

John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** reported good snapper and porgy action from both the north and south channel bridges. A few nice sized crabs around, but nothing special. Most anglers sticking to the porgies and snappers which are now at their peak.

## SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Joe at **Stella Maris Tackle** reported nice fluke being taken at the Coney Island flats, Sandy Hook and Ambrose Channel. Snappers and sand porgies keeping anglers busy in the bay and crabbing only fair, according to Joe. He described the bluefishing as okay, but no bonanza with boats working off of Shrewsbury and Seabright.

The open boat **The Pilot** was making its first try for blackfish this weekend and will be sailing mornings for the tautogs from here on in. The boat will continue to make afternoon runs for fluke and blues. Fluke fishing has been decent with some nice sized fish included in the catches. Fish are on the Coney Island flats and also along Ambrose Channel.

The **Flamingo III** has been on the bluefish run and doing fairly well fishing various areas as the fish have yet to really settle in solid in any one area. Jigs have been taking fish anywhere from 2-12 lbs. depending on the area being fished.

## STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop**, said that there are still weaks in Great Kills Harbor and at buoy 5. Blues and weaks remain in the same area as last week, that being old Orchard light to buoy 20. Trolled tubes and bait are accounting for both the weaks and blues. Choppers running from 3-5 lbs. and another body of larger choppers over 10 lbs., while most weaks run 6-8 lbs. Some school bass being taken on worms around Hoffman and Swinburne Islands.


PECONICS & GARDINERS

★BEST BET★

PORGIES


## GREENPORT

Capt Bob Ceglowski called to say that he hopes to very shortly be bringing in his new boat the **Captain Bob** into Greenport. The boat, says Bob, will be fishing for porgies

Monday through Friday at 8 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7a.m. For any further info call 516-924-9256.

Art White of **A. P. White Bait Shop** knew that both the **Brand X** skipperd by Capt. George Porter and the **Peconic Star** have been doing a real fine job on the biggest kind of porgies in the vicinity of Gardiner's Island. Art says that some of the fish are the biggest he's seen in years. The blackfishing is beginning to take hold again and should improve as we get into some cooler weather. Roddy DeLisle of the Prowler has been doing a good job with the fluke in the Gardiner's Island rips. Many of the fish are nice sized and average 2-3 lbs. Good bluefishing in the Race and Pigeon Rip on jigs. Fish range anywhere from 6-15 lbs. An occasional big bass in the Gut and loads of snappers in the Greenport area.

Frank at the **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported Elliot Hannon and Jesse Salem took 21 blues at the Cholera Banks on Saturday. The fish ran to 12 lbs. and were taken on bait and chum. Fluke and crabs available on the flats with snappers and harbor blues spread throughout the area. The Marina is running two fishing contest: one for blues and one for flounder running through October 12. Entry fee for the bluefish contest is $2, while the tab for the flounder contest is $1. Prizes for bluefish are 1st - $100; 2nd - $50 and 3rd- $25. For the flounder, first place is good for $50, 2nd - $25 and 3rd - $10. Entrants must sign up at the marina and all fish must be weighed at the Long Beach Sports Marina.

## SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that the Orient Station is having very good porgy catches at Petty's Bight, with fish up to 2 lbs. and lots of them. Fluke are still being taken at Petty's Bight. A 3¾ pounder was taken on clam bait on a porgy rig on Saturday. Blackfish from 4 to 8 lbs. in decent numbers are being caught around the Lighthouse. Flounders are still being caught just east of the Orient Station and they are getting fatter. Inside the Bay there are loads of sand porgies which are getting bigger by the week. Weaks have been spotty but Roses Grove along buoys 17 and 18 are producing some. The Greenport Breakwater on Shelter Island was hot during the week. A few bass have been taken off the Sound Beaches on sand worms and a few at the Race on yellow bucktail.

## NEW SUFFOLK

**Capt Marty's Fishing Station** tells of a very good fishing weekend, primarily porgies. Huge numbers of porgies with many boats bringing back from 100 to 200 fish, hit bloods and clam fishing both tides all around Robin's Island. Fish were up to 1½ lbs. Some weaks were taken between the White House at Nassau Point and


## ★GREENPORT★

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**BRAND X** 8A.M. DAILY

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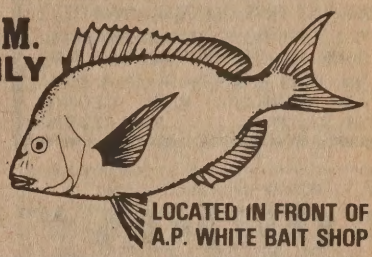

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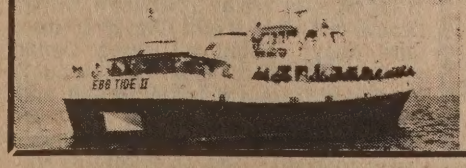


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## NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** tells us that Tommy and Jimmy Gazza of Forest Hills showed up their Dad and Bill Fales. The boys had 50 humpback porgies and a few weakfish on Sunday and also many large snappers fishing squid and worms on hi/lo rigs off Long Beach and buoys 16 and 17. Some kingfish are showing up also.

## SAG HARBOR

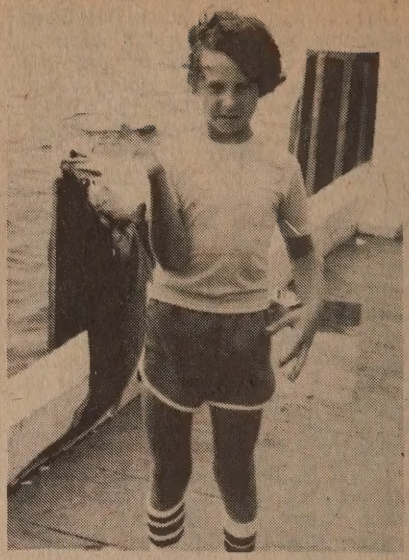
Capt Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** reports that on Monday's trip Lillian Hayman, star of the soap opera, One Life to Live, along with Sadie Gray along with Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Spriggs had over 200 humpback porgies. Porgy fishing was excellent Thursday through Sunday. High hooks ranged in the 60s and 70s and almost all customers were getting a full bucket. The fish have increased in size and the fall run is beginning with September the traditional BIG porgy month. Tuesday's fluke trip saw very few throw-backs and 150 keepers bouncing on the deck. Wednesday's pool winner on the fluke trip was an 8½ pounder for Bernie of Riverhead. Second place went to Marily of Hampton Bays with a 5 pounder.

NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

## MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** says that bluefish are everywhere and that you can't miss them. Two pounders are being caught all along Cedar Beach and Miller Place. Further out 6 to 8 pounders are being trolled and jigged. Lots of fluke 300 yds. off Cedar Beach on the weekend. Snappers are everywhere on small tins and shiners. Some porgies around in the rocks. The rocks at Miller Place produced a 5 lb. blackfish this week. A hot number is big bluefish after dark. These fish are 15 lbs. and up hitting live eels outside Port Jeff Harbor.

**Ralph's Fishing Station** also says there are lots of fish around with a lot of fluke from 2 to 5 lbs. being taken off Cedar Beach, a half mile out of the station on the flats at buoy 9. Ralph himself had 52 keepers on Wednesday all on small shiners. Lots of porgies from ½ to 1¼ lbs. at Miller Place and Rocky Point in the rocky areas. Very good bluefish trolling and jigging, fish from 1½ to 5 lbs. with large blues at Middle Grounds on umbrellas and diamond jigs. Plenty of snappers in the harbor along with tinker mackerel.



**Young James Avondolio hefts the 10 lb. 10 oz. weak he took on an Ava-47 jig at the Obstruction Buoy in Long Island Sound. Subscriber photo.**

## PORT JEFFERSON

**Caraftis Fishing Station** tells us that buoys 9 and 11 have been excellent for blues in the area off the Pink House. Biggest kind of blues further off in 160' of water on diamond jigs. Porgies have been a good item off Old Field and Crane Neck, mixed sizes. Some fluke off the Pink House, Belle Tiere and Mt. Misery Shoal, on sand eels, squid and spearing. A few blackfish are being caught but it's really jumping this season. Very good snapper fishing all over the place and fish are good sized now.

## NORTHPORT

The big news at **Bowman's sporting Goods Center** was the 14 lb. 3 oz. doormat fluke taken at Eatons Neck Sunday AM by Mike Avondolio on a live snapper. Mike was fishing with his dad Don, who is a frequent contributor to this magazine. Tom said that he looked over at least 10 fluke over 8 lbs. during the weekend, but none approached the dimensions of Mike's huge flatfish. As for blues, plenty of 4-6 lbs. for jiggers and trollers at the Obstruction buoy. Bigger fish with some going to 15 lbs. north of 11B and the loading platform. Weakfishing has slowed, but some boatmen have been picking away between the Coast Guard Station and

Sand City in the morning and evening hours. Jelly worm-squid strip combos and Tri-Fin spoon jigs have been most effective. Still small weaks during the evening at Duck Island. Loads of snappers throughout the harbor and good porgy fishing at Buoy 13 on squid and clams. Some go to 2 lbs.

## HUNTINGTON

The word from **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** was blues being taken at the Obstruction Buoy and buoy 11B with bigger fish at the latter location. Jigs and umbrella rigs taking fish at both locations. Some good weakfish scores made on the west shoal of buoy 13 on Ava and Tri-Fin jigs. A few bass being trolled on wire and white bucktails with pork rind in the Rip inside of 13. A couple of large fluke around and some nice porgies to 2 lbs. being taken on clam bait at Eatons Neck. Snappers all over, plenty of them and good sized.

George Valentine said from his **Four Winds Tackle Shop** that blues in the 3-5 lb. class are being jigged at buoy 11B, while choppers to 15 lbs. are taking chunk bait fished deep near buoy 11B. Most of the action with weakfish has been confined to the morning or evening hours. Some bass and blues into the low teens for bucktailers in the Eatons Neck Rips. Big porgies up to 2 lbs. at buoys 13, 2, and 8 on clam bait. Some nice fluke being taken at buoy 13. On Saturday one boat took 8 of the summer flatfish from 2½ to 3½ lbs. Snappers are in solid and are at their peak.

The **Ever Ready** tells of hundreds of blues caught on the a.m. and p.m. runs. Friday's 5 a.m. trip saw Tony Altimari of Bayville get a blue within 11 seconds on the first drop. Al Schermer of East Northport was high hook with 28 blues. Ed Kutner of Hicksville took the pool with a 6 pounder. Saturday morning's trip saw Al Mutzo of Mt. Vernon bag 20 blues and drop 16 more. Delores Schmidt took the pool with a 10 lb. 2 oz. weak. Night blues and weaks have been excellent. Jay Schneider of Greenlawn had 33 blues. Tom Ryan of Copiauge grabbed the pool with a 5 pounder. This is all in the Blue Triangle area on diamond jigs with red or orange teasers tied in 3' above the jig. Bottom runs are mainly producing porgies.

Capt. Jim of the **Hi-Hook** has been getting some blues at the OB. He's been getting porgies and weakfish there also. Nothing red hot this past week, however. The boat has a new sailing schedule. See ad for details.

## GLEN COVE

John at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported the big news in the area is that monster blues have been tearing up the harbor for the past four or five days. Most of the action is limited to between 4 and 7AM, although occasionally fish show up during the day or during the evening hours. The area is loaded with bunker and hopefully this should keep the choppers around for a little while. Ron Oldenberg took over the lead in the

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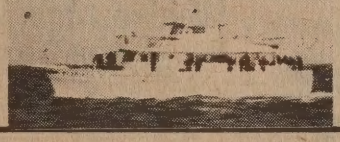

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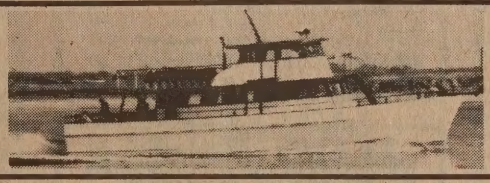

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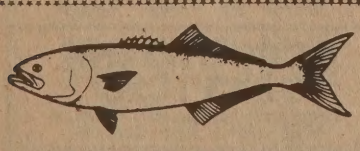

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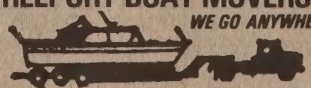

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bluefish category of the shop contest with a chopper of 16 lbs. 13 oz. taken Sunday morning aboard the Night Stalker III. Eleven-year-old Ernest Tinchiaroli aboard the Lonely Boy took a 15¾ lb. chopper last Thursday, Tom Dailey trolled 11 blues and weakfish to 11 lbs. near Maxwell's. He returned on Friday to take 11 more blues and weaks. There is also a new leader in the weakfish division. Paul Canarick checked in a tiderunner of 13 lbs. 10 oz. As for the harbor blues, John said that you can troll until fish come up chasing bunker, after which you liveline bunker or if the fish are herding snappers, a popping plug will do just fine.

## NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

**BLUES**

## CITY ISLAND

**Jack's Bait and Tackle** reported lots of sand porgies and real good snapper fishing keeping most anglers in the area occupied. Jack weighed in a doormat fluke of 9½ lbs. this week for George Cochran of New Jersey. The big fluke was taken off of Stamford aboard the **North Star**. Blackfishing is getting started with some decent fishing at the old CBS tower. Lots of school bass at Harts and High Islands on trolled worms or cast Rebels. Young John DeCuffa had a 12 lb. bass among his catch of schoolies last week. He used a spinner and worm combo. Big blues in the 10-15 lb. class roaming between No Nations, the Throgs Neck Bridge and Stepping Stone Light. The fish are on bunker and being taken on bunker chunks. They move from day to day, so you have to search around to locate them.

# SURF REPORT

*with Fred Golofaro*

The results are in for the New York surf fishing contest through the month of July and judging by the score sheet, either July wasn't such a bad month after all or else the contest has been motivating more surfmen to hit the suds and get involved in the competition.

The High Hill Striper Club leads the pack with 437 points. In second place is the Great South Bay Angler's Club with 231 points. The Farragut Striper Club with 470 pts. and the Striper Surf Club with 147 pts. filled the 3rd and 4th place slots. The individual point category found Fred Schwab atop the heap with 123 pts. Fred is a High Hill member. Al Lefkowitz of the Farragut Club holds down 2nd place with 88 pts., while Bill Bomba another High Hill member is 3rd with 77 pts. Bill also leads the striped bass division with a cow of 41 lbs. 6 oz. Fred Schwab added to his Club's lead in the release points category when he returned a bass of 41 lbs. 12 oz. The bluefish division was led by George Wade of the Farragut Striper Club with a 13 lb. 6 oz. chopper. Great South Bay Angler club members Charlie Hollins and Otto Reese hold down 2nd and 3rd place with fish of 9½ and 8 lbs. Bob Bus led the weakfish department with a 12 lb. 3 oz. tiderunner. In the womens division, Susan Muller of the High Hill Striper Club beached a 7 lb. 6 oz. weak to lead the pack, while Marie Hollins of the Great South Bay Club led the bluefish division with a 6 lb. 4 oz. blue.

Getting into this week's reports, let's see how things shaped up over the long holiday weekend.

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** in Staten Island reported little change in the surf scene with just some small blues providing an occasional flurry of action in Great Kills Park on tins and bait.

Billy Beckman told me from his Island Park Shop that he knew of a couple of flurries of action with some school bass to 10 lbs., as well as some small blues and weaks at West End Jones Beach this past week. He said that casters using both tins and RedFins scored. Some short stripers were mixed among the school fish.


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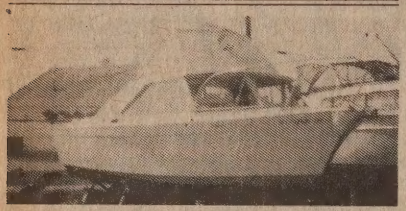

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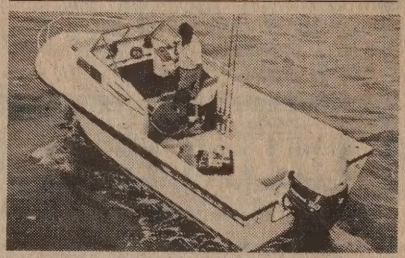

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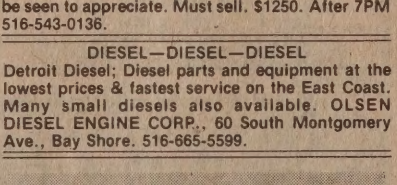

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## BEACH BUGGIES

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From his Captree Bait Station, Noel Kaupauf reported that casters at Oak Beach's Sore Thumb got in a good inning with weaks to 10 lbs. and blues most of the day on Sunday. In addition, a few short bass were mixed in with the blues and weaks. Tin accounted for all the action at the Thumb, according to Noel. Across the way at Democrat, still an occasional flurry of small blues on tins. Best bet in the early AM or evening hours.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** said that the only surf action this past week that came to his attention was some 2 and 3 lb. blues which roamed in and out along Southampton's ocean beaches. Both plugs and tin produced with the small choppers.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch reported a good turnout of casters at the Point over the long weekend. Small blues were taken at Shagwong on tin and small poppers Friday and Saturday evenings, but never did show on Sunday. A few small bass in the 4-5 lb. range, along the south side and at Rocky Point on RedFins. Jack Yee managed a 12 lb. striper from among the smaller fish. Up front, weaks in the 4-7 lb. class and small bluefish continue to provide some action on darters and RedFins. The only decent bass that came to John's attention was an estimated 30 lber. which was dropped right at the rocks under the light by an unidentified caster. Several anglers reported seeing the fish in the wash.

### North Shore

Jack told me from his City Island Tackle Shop that bass from shorts up to 5 or 6 lbs. continue to occupy casters at Turtle Cove. The usual array of Rebels, small bucktails or sand worms are still taking the fish which have been in the area all season long.

John told me from his **Glen Cove Sport Shop** that big blues are now roaming the harbor on the heels of the bunker schools. Occasionally they herd the baitfish up on the beach where casters get a shot at them, although he added that it is strictly an early AM affair. The fish are running from 10 to 16 lbs., according to John.

Unlike last year, when casters enjoyed good action with weaks and blues in the Huntington area, not to mention a good spring run of stripers and weaks, this year in the words of Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** is the worst that he can remember for the surf. Hopefully, September's cooler weather and some northerly winds will give casters in this area a little reprieve. The poor action in the area was repeated by George Valentine and Tom Bowman as well. Plenty of action in the area, but all confined to the boatmen.

Out in Greenport, Art White reported an occasional bass taken on Rebels and RedFins by some of the locals, but not many guys have been trying and a lot of the locals choose to remain quiet about any activity that they encounter.

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